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CM Revanth Reddy orders vigilance inquiry into HCA-Sunrisers Hyderabad issue

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy took a serious view of the reported attitude of the Hyderabad Cricket Association towards Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Once the report is submitted, stringent action will be taken against the erring officials and no one will be spared, a senior official of the HCA informed 'Telangana Today' on Monday.

Man stabbed to death in Saroornagar Hyderabad: A man was stabbed to death by a youth at Karmanghat in Saroornagar on Sunday night. The victim was

identified as B Venkateshwarlu (47) alias Raju, a financier from Janaki Enclave in Karmanghat in Saroornagar.

Venkateshwarlu was in a live-in relationship with a woman for the past ten months and both were residing in the same address. According to the police, the woman's son M Pavan (27), a photographer, also from Janaki Enclave, was often scolded and abused by Venkateshwarlu. On Sunday night, the duo had an argument over the same and Pavan was beating Venkateshwarlu. Around 11pm, Venkateshwarlu had made a phone call to police and informed that Pavan was beating him. However, by the time police reached the spot, Pavan attacked Venkateshwarlu with a knife on his chest, stomach and shoulder and fled from the spot. The Saroornagar police shifted Venkateshwarlu to the Osmania General Hospital in an ambulance, where the doctors declared him dead. A case was booked and being investigated.

CM Revanth Reddy Outlines Vision for Telangana's Development



GNS News Agency, March 31

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has reaffirmed his commitment to the state's development, emphasising job creation, law and order, and major infrastructure projects. Speaking at a recent event, he highlighted the government's efforts to ensure economic growth and social welfare. "The state is progressing towards welfare and development. We are working hard to create employment opportunities for the youth. Investments will only come when law and order are under control, and we are taking strict

action against anti-social elements," he stated. The Chief Minister also spoke about his partnership with Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, likening their efforts to a pair of oxen tirelessly working for Telangana's progress. He expressed his vision for Hyderabad to gain global recognition and serve as a model for the rest of the country. As part of this initiative, CM Revanth Reddy highlighted key infrastructure projects, including the Musi River Rejuvenation, Regional Ring Road, and Future City. He asserted that Future City would be a major hub for investment and employment, setting an example for urban development in India. "New cities must be built in this country, and Future City will be a model for the nation. It will be designed as an investment hub, creating lakhs of jobs and livelihood opportunities. We will take strict action against those attempting to hinder the state's progress," he warned. He also credited Sonia Gandhi for introducing the Food Security Act, ensuring that no poor person goes hungry. Additionally, he emphasised the government's efforts to support farmers in growing fine rice. further strengthening Telangana's agricultural sector. The CM's remarks highlight his government's commitment to making Telangana a leader in economic and infrastructural growth while ensuring the welfare of its people.

KCR extends Eid greetings, reminds BRS govt's role in promoting inclusive growth

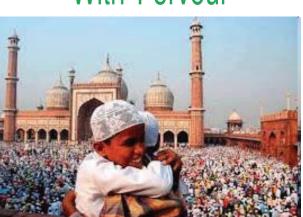


GNS News Agency, March 31

Hyderabad: Former Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao extended Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the Muslim community. He said the holy month of Ramzan fosters the values of peace, devotion, and brotherhood in the society.Recalling Telangana's Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb promoting communal harmony, Chandrashekhar Rao said the BRS government's de-

cade-long regime implemented minority welfare with commitment. From the Telangana statehood movement to governance, he said the party ensured Muslim minorities were key stakeholders in the State's progress. Eid ul Fitr on Monday as new moon sighted in Telangana; check out prayer timings at Hyderabad mosquesThe BRS supremo pointed to innovative welfare schemes in education and economic empowerment, crediting BRS policies for maintaining religious harmony, peace, and security, setting an example for the rest of the nation. He asserted that Hyderabad's investment boom, attracting global business giants, was possible due to stability and secular governance under BRS.He stated that Telangana's flourishing real estate, pharma, and other sectors, were the result of policies fostering social unity and communal harmony, which in turn created employment opportunities for lakhs of youth. He hoped that the State's development trajectory would continue on the foundation of universal brotherhood and harmony laid by the BRS.BRS working president KT Rama Rao, former Minister T Harish Rao, MLC K Kavitha and several others also extended their greetings to the Muslim community on the festive occa-

Eid-Ul-Fitr Celebrated With Fervour



Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS):The Muslims from the two Telugu-speaking States celebrated the holy festival of Ramadan with devotion today. In Hyderabad city, the Muslims reached the Eidgahs in large numbers and offered special prayers. Afterwards, they hugged each other and wished Eid Mubarak. Thousands participated in the special prayers held at mosques and Eidgahs. A large crowd gathered at Mecca Masjid, Miralam Eidgah, Badi Masjid and other places of prayers. After the prayers, friends and relatives hugged and wished each other. In Siddipet, BRS party MLA T. Harish Rao visited a local Eidgah and extended Eid greetings. He also hugged scores of them and wished them a happy Eid. BRS party working president KTR took to his twitter handle and extended all Muslims on the occasion of

Tpcc President

Mahesh Kumar

Goud Receives

Congress Govt Failed To Deliver Six Guarantees: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Union Minister and BJP Telangana President Kishan Reddy today alleged that the Congress government had failed to fully implement the six guarantees given to people. A meeting of BJP office-bearers was held at the party's central office in Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Kishan Reddy. The party MLAs, MPs, MLCs and newly elected district presidents were present in this meeting.

Kishan Reddy discussed key issues during the meeting and gave directions to the party leaders on organizational matters. He asked the party leaders to complete the process of the appointment of the remaining district presidents and mandal presidents. He gave advice and suggestions to the BJP cadre to prepare for struggles on behalf of the people against the Revanth Reddy's government. Kishan Reddy discussed the steps to be taken to take the fight on behalf of the farmers on the six guarantees. He claimed that the people of the State were now looking towards the BJP and added they were waiting for the BJP leaders to continue their struggles and come to power.

Reddy said they had won the Teacher and Graduate MLC elections recently. He said they won two seats despite the conspiracies of the Congress and BRS parties. Kishan Reddy criticized that the previous BRS MLCs did not contest and mocked that the Congress party raised its hands before the MLC elections. He accused the Revanth government of trying to stab the people who voted for it. He called upon the BJP cadres to launch a public movement against the Congress party and prepare for struggles. He said there was opposition among the people against the KCR family and the BRS party. He suggested that the party should be strengthened through struggles. He also said the pending committees should be completed immediately. He also said the party should be strengthened organizationally. He directed that activities should be prepared before Ambedkar Jayanti. He wanted 100% booth and mandal committees should be completed before the deadline. He said the Yuva Morcha should be prepared to fight against the problems of the farmers, power cuts and unemployment. He also said the party's Mahila Morcha should fight against women's issues. He suggested that full focus should be given to the local body elections. He said the BJP should move forward with the slogan of winning the local body elections. Kishan Reddy said while preparing for the local body elections, efforts should be made to strengthen the party.

Sonia Gandhi Slams Modi Government Over NEP 2020 Implementation

GNS News Agency, March 31

New Delhi: Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Monday has strongly criticized the BJP-led Narendra Modi government over the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She alleged that the policy is being imposed to serve political objectives without adequate consultation. In a newspaper article, Gandhi accused the central government of using NEP 2020 as a tool to advance its agenda based on the '3Cs'—centralization, commercialization, and communalism. She asserted that the policy undermines the role of state governments in shaping education policies, thereby weakening the federal structure of governance. The dispute over NEP between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre remains unresolved, with the DMK-led state government opposing the policy. Chief Minister MK Stalin has specifically criticized the imposition of the Hindi language, asserting that Tamil Nadu will not accept such a move. However, Gandhi, while strongly criticizing the central government, did not directly address the Hindi language controversy in her article.

CJI-led Bench to hear PIL against Places of Worship Act 1991 on Tuesday



GNS News Agency, March 31

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is slated to hear, on Tuesday, a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the constitutional validity of a provision of the Places of Worship Act, 1991. As per the causelist published on the website of the apex court, a bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar will hear the latest plea in the row on April 1. The CJI Khanna-led Bench is already seized of a clutch of pleas challenging the validity of the contentious law, which prohibits the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947. In an interim order passed on December 12, 2024, the Supreme Court had ordered that no fresh suits would be registered under the Places of Worship Act in the country, and in the pending cases, no final

or effective orders would be passed till further orders. As per the latest petition filed through advocate Shweta Sinha, Section 4(2) of the 1991 Act is manifestly arbitrary, irrational and violative of Articles 14, 21, 25, and 26 of the Constitution. "This provision not only closes the doors of mediation but also takes away the power of the judiciary. The legislature cannot take away the power of the judiciary to preside over disputes. This has been done through colourable legislation," stated the plea.

In March 2021, a Bench headed by then Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde sought the Centre's response to the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay challenging the validity of certain provisions of the law, prohibiting the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947. The plea said: "The 1991 Act was enacted in the garb of 'public order', which is a state subject (Schedule-7, List-II, Entry-1) and 'places of pilgrimages within India' is also a state subject (Schedule-7, List-II, Entry-7). So, the Centre can't enact the Law. Moreover, Article 13(2) prohibits the State from making a law to take away funda mental rights, but the 1991 Act takes away the rights of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs, to restore their 'places of worship and pilgrimages', destroyed by barbaric invaders.""The Act excludes the birthplace of Lord Rama but includes the birthplace of Lord Krishna, though both are incarnations of Lord Vishnu, the creator and equally worshipped throughout the world, hence it is arbitrary," it added.

CM Revanth Orders Vigilance Inquiry Into Hca-Sunrisers Hyd Issue



Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has taken a serious stance regarding the ongoing controversy surrounding the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). He has instructed the Vigilance department to investigate claims of threats directed at the management of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) concerning pass distribution. The Chief Minister also emphasized the need for officials to gather information regarding the alleged harassment faced by the SRH management when requesting passes. Vigilance Director General Kothakota Srinivas Reddy has been tasked with conducting a thorough investigation and submitting a report. Revanth Reddy has warned that action will be initiated if the SRH management continues to face disturbances over the issue of passes. There is an ongoing conflict between Sunrisers Hyderabad and the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). The SRH management has accused the HCA of subjecting them to harassment in their efforts to obtain free passes. In a letter addressed to the Hyderabad Cricket Association, the SRH management indicated that they may leave Hyderabad due to the unbearable harassment, claiming that HCA President Jaganmohana Rao has been pursuing them for free

The management of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) announced that they are currently distributing ten percent of match tickets. However, the corporate boxes at the stadium were secured by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) prior to the match, raising concerns about the ticket distribution process. In their communication, SRH management expressed significant frustration over the HCA's attempts to assert control, especially since they have cov-

ered the full rental fees for hosting IPL matches at the stadium. As a result, Sunrisers Hyderabad is considering a discussion with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and may look into changing the venue if negotiations do not yield a positive outcome. In light of these situations, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has mandated an investigation into the ongoing developments. (NSS)

Woman Maoist from Telangana's Warangal killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

Kothagudem: A senior woman Maoist carrying a collective reward of Rs 45 lakh was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Monday, police officials said. Dantewada DRG and Bastar Fighters took part in the encounter in the forests near Nelgoda, Ikeli and Belnar villages on the borders of Dantewada and Bijapur districts.

CPI (Maoist) party Central Regional Bureau (CRB) press team in-charge, Prabhat Patrika editor and Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) member Gummadivelli Renuka alias Bhanu alias Chaite alias Saraswati was carrying a reward of Rs 45 lakh (Rs 25 lakh reward by Chhattisgarh government and Rs 20 lakh by Telangana government).

Renuka, who studied LLB, belonged to Kadavendi of erstwhile Warangal district. She joined the party in 1996 and worked with SZCM Krishnanna in Andhra Pradesh. In 2003, she was promoted as DVCM. In 2006, she worked with Central Committee Member Dula Dada alias Anand in South Bastar. In 2013, she came to the Maad region and worked with SZCM Ramanna. After Ramanna died of Covid, she was made the press team in-charge of CRB in 2020. She used to issue press releases on behalf of the naxals; print and publish various magazines like Prabhat, Mahila Margam, Awami Jung, People's March, Podiyaro Pollo, Jhankar, Sangharshmarti Mahila, Pituri, Midangur and Bhumkal Sandesh.



GNS News Agency, March 31

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Mahesh Kumar Goud the President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), was awarded the 7th Dan Karate Black Belt and a certificate by the Okinawa Martial Arts Academy in Hyderabad on Monday. He earned this recognition after completing a three-hour competition held at the YWCA, where he secured both the black belt and certification. During the event, he expressed his pride and joy in receiving the 7th Dan Karate Black Belt certificate. Karate is integral to my life, and I always find time to practice it, regardless of my stress levels," Mahesh Kumar Goud stated. He also highlighted the challenges faced by today's youth, noting that many parents place undue mental stress on their children by prioritizing technology over physical activity. "Sports and exercise should be fundamental for maintaining physical health, and parents ought to encourage their children to engage in sports," the TPCC President emphasised. As the State President and National Vice-President of the Karate Association, he affirmed his commitment to prioritising the organization of Karate competitions. He also promised that steps should be taken to hold the Asian Karate Championships at Hyderabad in 2027.(NSS)

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Fixing immigration

Even as Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 assed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday, strengthens borler security and discourages illegal migration, it has the otential to trigger far-reaching consequences — both numanitarian and economic. Historically, India has welomed those who contribute to its development—be it Tietan refugees who have enriched our culture and conomy, or skilled professionals from abroad who suport our industries. At the same time, India has taken firm ction against infiltrators who pose security threats, as een in crackdowns on illegal networks facilitating crossorder crimes. The new Bill, however, appears to focus only on deterrence, risking the rejection of even those who eek legitimate opportunities. Compared to previous laws, t proposes stricter eligibility criteria for asylum seekers, expedited deportation processes and increased penalties or undocumented workers and those aiding them. While he older policies allowed more room for case-by-case evaluation, this Bill imposes blanket rules that could prevent genuine refugees from accessing protection. It also mits work permits for migrants, potentially disrupting industries that depend on their labour. The economic impliations of the Bill are severe, too. Tightened employment estrictions on undocumented workers could cripple industries like agriculture and construction, which depend n migrant labour. Moreover, a border policy that relies olely on enforcement without addressing root causes is loomed to fail. Tougher laws alone do not curb migration; hey merely push desperate individuals to take riskier outes. A pragmatic approach should include investments n regional stability, legal pathways for work-based migraion and stronger international cooperation. The immigraion policy must balance security with opportunity. A naion can be both welcoming and watchful. The new Bill vould do well to follow that lead.

Vontimitta SriRamanavami Brahmotsavam works inspected

March 31,(Indian Chronicle)" Tirupati district correspondent/Ontimitta""TTD JEO V Veerabrahmam along with YSR Kadapa District Collector Dr. Cherukuri Sridhar and SP E. G. Ashok Kumar on Monday, inspected ongoing works of Sri Ramanavami Brahmotsavams of Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple"to be held from April 05 to April 15 in Ekashilanagaram, Vontimitta. On this occasion, they verified the arrangements in detail and made several suggestions to the officials concerned. The top brass au-



thorities inspected the roads, parking facilities, PAC building works, kiosks and other works. As the Chief Minister of AP N Chandrababu Naidu is reaching the Kalyana Vedika premises from Kadapa Airport on April 11, the JEO discussed with the District Collector and SP on the security arrangements to be made. It was suggested that parking road diversion routes should be arranged in advance in Bakarapet, along with the entry and exit routes of the devotees without any problems. "Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector suggested that the machinery should be prepared to distribute drinking water, buttermilk, Anna Prasadams, and Sita Rama Kalyanam Mutyala Talambralu packets to the devotees in the galleries. He instructed the officials to set up control rooms for the convenience of the devotees and to set up emergency routes to exit the galleries at the Kalyana Vedika. And instructed that all ongoing works should be completed on time. "Speaking on the occasion, the District SP said that security measures about 2 thousand police personnel will be deployed. He said that strong arrangements will be made at the field level without giving a chance to any sort of untoward incident. The JEO suggested that arrangements should be made in a planned manner for the distribution of emergency medical services, ambulances, fire brigade, police and Annaprasadam in the Kalyana Vedika area as per the directives given by the District Collector. Later, a department-wise review meeting was held in the Conference Hall with the various District departments and Police besides TTD officials by the TTD JEO, Collector and SP.TTD CE Satyanarayana, Venkateswarlu, Manoharam, Kadapa DRO Vishveswara Naidu, RDO John Erwin, Jammalamadugu RDO Sai Sri and other officials participated in this meeting

Miryala Preetham participated in Ramzan celebrations



"Indian Chronicle Chandanagar division Mahmood Baig, Rashid, Hanif and prominent friends and well-wishers met at their homes and celebrated the festival with them, wishing them Ramzan greetings. Miryala Preetham, Director of Miryala Raghava Charitable Trust. Paradeshi Naidu, Shiva, Rakesh and members of the trust participated in the

VISWAVASU UGADI ASTHANAM HELD



Chronicle) ,Tirupati district correspondent, ""Sri

was held with utmost religious fervour in Tirumala temple on Sunday."After awakening Swamy varu

with Suprabhatam at 3 am Shuddhi was performed. At 6 am, a special offering is made to Sridevi Bhudevi

priests at the Bangaru Vakili as per the tenets of Vaikhanasa Agama in a grand manner."Meanwhile TTD has cancelled the Chowdary,

sameta Sri Malayappa

Swamy and Vishwaksenula

Varu. Around 7 am, a procession is taken around the

Vimana Prakaram. After that, the Moolavirat and the festive idols are decked in

new clothes followed by

Panchaga Sravanam. The

Ugadi Asthanam was con-

ducted by vedic pundits and

Arjitha Sevas including Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva and Arjitha Brahmotsavam, in view of Ugadi."Along with a few board members, TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Peishkar Ramakrishna, Parupattedar Bala Subramanyam and other officers were also

The Shalivahanas met the Chairman of the Nayi **Brahmin Corporation**

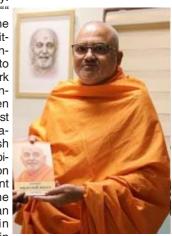


March 31. (Indian Chronicle) Tirupati district correspor dent "The Chairman of the State Nayi Brahmin" Corporation, Rudrakoti Sadasivam, was felicitated by the President of the TDP Tirupati Parliament Shalivahana Sangam, Aamudala Tulsidas. Rudrakoti Sadasivam was felicitated with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers by Aamudala Tulsidas and the Shalivahana Sangam at his residence. Shalivahana Sangam leaders Hariprasad, Naresh, Krishna, Lokanatham Chiranjeevi participated in this program.

Saraswati Samman Award received by Mahamahopadyaya

Mark 31 (Indian chronicle) Tirupati district correspondent"" Mahamhopadhyay Sadhu Bhadreshdas to receive the Saraswati Samman 2024 for his Sanskrit book, Swaminarayana Siddhanta Sudha, celebrating Indian philosophy. Renowned Sanskrit scholar Mahamhopadhyay Sadhu Bhadreshdas will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2024 for his book Swaminarayana Siddhanta Sudha in Sanskrit, the KK Birla Foundation said

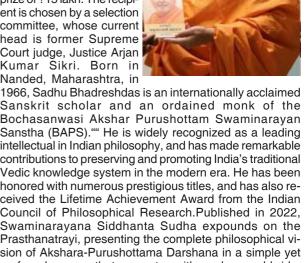
in a statement on Tuesday. Instituted in 1991. Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the counan outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years. It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ?15 lakh. The recipi-



Sanskrit scholar and an ordained monk of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). "" He is widely recognized as a leading intellectual in Indian philosophy, and has made remarkable contributions to preserving and promoting India's traditional Vedic knowledge system in the modern era. He has been honored with numerous prestigious titles, and has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indian Council of Philosophical Research. Published in 2022, Swaminarayana Siddhanta Sudha expounds on the Prasthanatrayi, presenting the complete philosophical vision of Akshara-Purushottama Darshana in a simple yet profound manner that resonates with readers worldwide. The text proves that the tradition of philosophical discoveries in India is not just a page in history, but a living tradition that still gives birth to new philosophical inventions. "On this occasion National Sanskrit University Tirupati Vicechancellor of National Sanskrit University Tirupati Prof.G.S.R Krishna Murty congratulated swamiji for receiving this auspicious award...

Sri Sadhu Bhadreshdas

try. It is given every year to ent is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is former Supreme Court judge, Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri. Born in Nanded, Maharashtra, in



A.P high court judge offered prayers to sri



"March 31,(Indian Chronicle) Tirupati district correspondent ""A.P High court judge VRK. krupa Sagar visited Sri Padmavati Devi temple at Tiruchanoor on Monday and offered prayers.. On reaching the temple, he was welcomed by the temple authorities made arrangements for darshan. After darshan of goddess padmavathi ammavaru high court judge "Offered ammavari teertha prasadams and sacred shawl. Deputy EO Govindarajan, AEO Devarajulu, AVSO Satish Kumar, Superintendent Ramesh, senior priests of the temple Babu Swamy Tiruchanur and others

Prajavani put off to April 4

Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): The Prajavani session originally scheduled for April 1, has been postponed to April 4, 2025, due to the following day of Ramzan.

All the petitioners are requested to all to take note of the change and attend Prajavani Program on April 4 instead of April 1. (NSS)

Srivari Theertha Prasadams

offered to CM of AP on Ugadi



"March 30 (Indian Chronicle) Tirumala correspondent/Amaravathi:""TTD Chairman BR Naidu along with the TTD EO J. Syamala Rao presented Srivari Prasadams to the Chief Minister of the AP, N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday, on the auspicious occasion of Sri Viswavasu Nama Telugu Ugadi. "The Chairman and EO met the CM at the latter's Camp Office in Tadepalli. "On this occasion, the Chairman and EO presented Sesha Vastram and Srivari Theertha Prasadams to the Chief Minister. "Vedic Pundits offered blessings to the CM on the occasion. "Earlier, both the TTD Trust Board Chief and the EO have also formally invited the CM for the state festival of Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam on April 11 as a part of the Vontimitta Sri Kodandarama temple Brahmotsavams which is scheduled from April 05-15 in Kadapa district, by offering invitation to the CM of

MOHINI AVATARAM MEAMERISES



March 31, (Indian Chronicle), tirupati district correspondent "The ongoing annual Brahmotsavam at Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple in Tirupati witnessed Sri Rama blessing His devotees as Mohini. On Monday morning, the deity draped in colourful robes and flowers and daz-



zling jewels seated majestically inside the finely decked Palanguin as Universal Celestial Damsel which mesmerized the devotees

The pontiffs of Tirumala, DyEO Nagaratna and oth-

Your services will be memorable: ASP Ravi Manoharachari (Law and Order)



"March 31 (Indian Chronicle) Tirupati district correspondent""Ravi Manoharachari ASP (Law and Order) gave a grand farewell to the retired police officers on the orders of district SP V Harshavardhan Raju. "Ravi Manoharachari ASP (Law and Order) felicitated the four police officers and staff who retired in March today at the conference hall of the local police guest house in the presence of their family members and loved ones and presented them with mementos and a warm farewell. "Speaking on the occasion, the District ASP said that everyone has rendered long service to the police departments for almost 41 years and the cooperation of your wives is good and you have performed your duties efficiently and brought a good name to the police department and your family." We are also excited that you are starting this new chapter in your life. "It's good that you are working hard and keeping the children in a good place. All your time and energy are devoted to public service in the police department. It is suggested to focus on health while spending time with family members after retirement. "He conveyed his heartiest congratulations to all of you, saying that all efforts will be made to ensure timely retirement benefits. Retired police officers thanked the district ASP for saying a grand "warm farewell" and felicitating us in our lives. "Family members of retired police officers, police officers association president Somashekhar Reddy, secretary Shankar Reddy and other members participated in the event

New Year: Spurt In Pollution, Cybercrime, Road Accidents Predicted

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Spurt in the incidence of cyber crimes, pollution, road accidents, divorces in the country is predicted in the new year (Viswavasu samvatsaram), which commenced on Sunday. The predictions are made by noted astrologer Mulugu Sivajyothi, daughter of late Mulugu Ramalingeswara Varapradadu Siddhanthi

In her new year panchangam (almanac), the astrologer predicted that air and water pollution, food adulteration, and accidents are likely to result in large scale loss of life. Cyber cheats will invent new methods with each passing day and there is no way to stop them. Incidents of suicide by persons due to inability to repay the loan taken, will also be on the raise. Number of divorces are also likely to increase. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are likely to face natural calamities, and the coast line is likely to undergo a change. In spite of all the developments, road accidents cannot be stopped. Heart-related diseases, obesity likely to increase. Indian sports persons will get world recognition. Women are likely to get recognition in sports, politics and also in administration. Precious diamonds, rare metals and minerals are expected to be found in the coun-

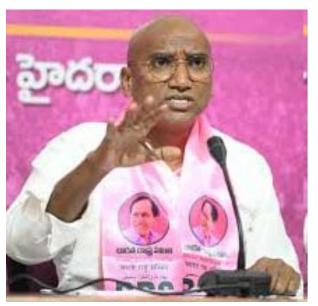
Canara Bank golden jubilee celebrations held grandly.



""March 31,(Indian Chronicle) "Tirupati district correspondent" The golden jubilee celebrations of Canara Bank were held at the Canara Bank branch in Tiruchanur on Monday. As part of the program, the program was first launched by lighting the lamp. I Panduranga Mithanthaiah, General Manager, Tirupati Circle Office, who was the chief guest at the event, said, "We are very happy to be a part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Canara Bank. "Canara Bank has always been doing its bit to help the country move

forward on the path of progress," he said. "Canara Bank has been at the forefront of providing better services to the people from time to time by leveraging advanced technology in the banking sector. "Canara Bank has carved a niche for itself in providing banking services even to the common man. Earlier, Canara Bank felicitated their existing customers and handed over gifts. Tirupati Circle Office Deputy General Manager G. Narasimha was present on the occa-

CM Revanth is demonic vulture, should be in jail: RS Praveen Kumar



Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): BRS party leader RS Praveen Kumar has lashed out at the Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by saying that a demonic vulture and a cunning person who should be in jail was the Home Minister & Chief Minister today.

Speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan, he lashed out at CM Revanth Reddy. He alleged that Revanth

was destroying all constitutional institutions and added that the CM who should protect the rights of the people was taking them away. He alleged that Revanth Reddy was unable to digest the fact that the BRS party was the main Opposition party fighting as the voice of the people and added that Revanth Reddy was targeting those who question the State government on social media. He said 15 cases were filed on March 15 and 16, cases were also being filed against those who tweeted and added that FIRs were being registered against the BRS party activists by using Section 67 of the IT Act, which should be used for obscenityHe expressed his displeasure that Revanth was misusing the Cyber Security Bureau (CSB) as the Home Minister and claimed that Revanth Reddy was using the bureau, which should protect people from digital frauds, against the BRS party. He claimed that some Cyber Security Bureau officials were working as Revanth Reddy's stooges and registering copy-paste FIRs against their party leaders. He alleged that the focus of the police was only on Telangana Bhavan in the name of cyber patrolling and wondered as to why Gandhi Bhavan and BJP offices were not included in the cyber patrolling. He claimed that Revanth was posting outrageous posts against their party leader KTR in the name of the army and added that despite the number of outrageous posts made by the Congress and BJP MPs, why is the cyber police not taking action suo motu? He said there was no obscenity in the social media posts of Gautam, Dilip Konatham, and Krishank. He demanded that the false cases filed against the BRS party's social media warriors be immediately withdrawn. (NSS)

"Telangana govt owns 400 acres of land, heu did not own even a single inch of land"

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): The Telangana government has given clarity on the criticism of BRS, BJP leaders on Hyderabad Central University land at Kanche Gachibowli at Serilingampally mandal of Rangareddy district. It has clarified that 400 acres of land belong to the government and there is no HCU land in the project. In a statement here issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) on Monday, it informed that the State government had proved legally the ownership of land in the court and acquired the property which was allotted to a private company 21 years ago through a legal battle. It further stated that the development of works and auction of the land will not affect the ecosystem including rocks. Moreover, no lake exists in the land allotted for development. The Chief Minister's office stated that then State government in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh allotted the land to a private company in 2004 and however, the current Congress government acquired the ownership of the land by legally winning the case in the Supreme Court. "A survey report disclosed that the University of Hyderabad (Central University) did not own even a single inch of land," the statement said. "The State gov-



ernment led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is giving top priority to the sustainable development of the local area and conservation of the environment in every plan. However, some political leaders and realty groups are opposing the project and misleading the students for their vested interests," the CMO said. It further cautioned that disputes if any created on the ownership of land will be a contempt of the court.(NSS)

Telangana Enters Global Rice Export Market With Maiden Shipment To Southeast Asia



Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS):Irrigation & Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday announced that Telangana had successfully exported its first consignment of rice to the Philippines, marking a major step in tapping global markets for the state's surplus paddy. Speaking to media persons after flagging off the shipment at Kakinada Port, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that 12,500 metric tonnes of rice had been dispatched earlier in the day. "This is a significant moment for Telangana's farmers and our agriculture sector," he said, adding Telangana has emerged as a major paddy-producing state, thanks to favourable soil, climatic conditions, and the proactive support provided by the Congress government. He noted that paddy is the main crop cultivated by farmers, and production has seen consistent growth. "This year the annual paddy production was about 280 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs), and we often produce far more than what is required for the state and central pool," he added. The Minister pointed out that the State Government has been incurring heavy expenditure on paddy procurement and related costs. "Due to undue de-

lays in receiving the cost of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) from the Government of India and the Food Corporation of India (FCI), we are facing a serious financial burden in the form of interest payments," he said. In this context, the State government explored export options to offload surplus rice. "We found an opportunity with the Philippines, which, after conducting a thorough assessment of rice samples from Telangana, expressed interest in importing our rice," said Uttam Kumar Reddy. He informed that several rounds of discussions were held between officials of Telangana and the Philippines. "After examining the quality, the Philippines government proposed to initially purchase 1 LMT of rice and 8 LMTs of paddy from Telangana. Based on this, an MoU was signed, and a formal agreement was reached between The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (TGSCSCL) and Planters Products Inc., representing the Philippines government," he explained. The agreement specifies that the exported rice would be of the IR64/ MTU1010 variety, with 5% broken, well-milled, polished, and sortex quality. The rice must also adhere to strict quality parameters, including minimal foreign matter, low moisture content (up to 14%), and limited damaged, discoloured, and red grains. "The export rate was finalised at Rs 36,000 per metric tonne, ex-Kakinada Port," he announced. He also stated that 103 rice mills in Telangana participated in milling the MSP paddy for this export. "This is just the beginning. We are confident that Telangana rice will soon gain a strong foothold in international markets," Uttam Kumar Reddy said and congratulated the farmers, rice millers, and officials of the Civil Supplies Corporation for their role in this achieve-

Bc Ministers, Mlas From Telangana Congress To Leave For Delhi Today

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnam Prabhakar, along with Congress MLAs representing the Backward Classes, are set to travel to New Delhi on Tuesday evening to take part in a Maha Dharna. This demonstration is planned in the national capital on April 2 to advocate for a 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes. The BC Welfare Organisations from Telangana are organising this Maha Dharna in response to a bill passed by the Telangana Legislative Assembly, which seeks to raise the BC reservations by 42 percent and urges that the legislation be approved by Parliament. Top leaders from the All India Congress Committee, including Rahul Gandhi, as well as opposition leaders, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka, and TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, are expected to join the Maha Dharna to show their support for the BC leaders. Moreover, on April 2 and 3, the BC Ministers and MLAs will convene with Union Ministers and representatives from vari-

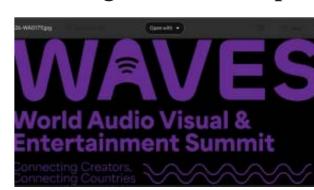


ous political parties to go over the particulars of the caste survey carried out by Telangana and to advocate for their support of legislation aimed at raising the reservations for BCs by 42 percent.(NSS)

WAVES Bazaar Expands Global Reach with Exclusive Showcases and Strategic Partnerships

WAVES Bazaar, the premier global e-marketplace for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry, is set to make a powerful impact in its inaugural edition, taking place from May 1-4, 2025, at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. As a key component of WAVES 2025, the marketplace will bring together industry leaders from Film, TV, and AVGC (Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics) sectors, offering unparalleled opportunities for collaboration, content show-casing, and business expansion. With an ambitious vision to establish India as a global content hub, WAVES Bazaar will feature a range of exclusive segments, including the Viewing Room, Market Screenings, Buyer & Seller Meetings, and the dynamic Pitchroom, facilitating meaningful connections and driving cross-border partnerships. Viewing Room & Market Screenings: Unlocking New Content Horizons

WAVES Bazaar will host curated screenings of films, series, and AVGC projects, providing buyers, sales agents, and distributors with exclusive access to fresh and compelling content. The Viewing Room will offer a dedicated space for industry professionals to explore and acquire new titles, while the Market Screenings will present select projects to a global audience, creating opportunities for content distribution, licensing, and syndication deals.Buyer & Seller Meetings: Fostering Global Collaborations In collaboration with FICCI Frames Content Marketplace, WAVES Bazaar will offer a structured Buyer & Seller segment, enabling one-on-one meetings between key stakeholders, including producers, studios, broadcasters, and platforms. These targeted B2B interactions aim to accelerate dealmaking, co-productions, and content acquisitions, fostering international collaborations and strengthening industry



will provide a high-energy platform for creators, filmmakers, and content innovators to present their most promising concepts to investors, producers, and commissioning editors. Designed to spotlight emerging talent and innovative projects, the Pitchroom will serve as a launchpad for new content ventures and potential co-productions, making it a must-attend for industry decision-makers. Industry Leaders Endorse WAVES Bazaar

Prominent industry players have lauded WAVES Bazaar for its potential to transform content trade and partnerships. "We are excited to participate in WAVES Bazaar across multiple segments," said Mr. Murlidhar Chhatwani, Chief Business Officer, and Mr. Rajat Goswami, Head of Film Acquisitions & Syndication at Panorama Studios. "This marketplace provides an incredible platform for showcasing our projects, securing meaningful collaborations, and expanding our global reach in the entertainment industry."

Maoists Demand Govt To Stop Alienation Of Hcu Lands To Corporate Companies

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): The Maoist Party has expressed its anger at the Congress government over the restrictive measures in OU and the land auction process in HCU. The Maoist Party's official spokesperson Jagan has released a fresh letter today by alleging that a scheme had been formulated to hand over the university lands to corporate companies with the help of a brutal authoritarian regime of the university.In its letter, the Maoist Party has flagged that democracy was in danger like never before due to the policies of today's rulers. "400 acres of land is being put up for sale without considering the legality provided by the Indian Constitution. Those who question these anti-people policies are being silenced," the party alleged. It has accused the State government of implementing dictatorial policies and destroying basic civil liberties and democracy

"On the 13th of this month, the Congress government issued orders through the OU Registrar not to hold any agitations, dharnas or protests in the Osmania University. It warned that those who acted contrary to these orders would be severely punished. Prohibitory orders were imposed to suppress the struggles of the students in the universities. These actions taken by the government are unconstitutional and undemocratic. Such authoritarian actions would destroy the future of the country. The State government is taking such actions only to hand over the education sector to the corporates to privatise it," it alleged. The party stated that OU University students had been fighting against



the policies followed by the current governments since the Nizam and have actively participated in the socio-political and economic struggles of Telangana. The letter mentioned that the students were not limited to just problems but made many sacrifices to solve the basic problems of the people. It has been flagged that all the social, political and economic benefits enjoyed by many people today are the result of the fierce struggles of the students but today the exploitative ruling classes had set their main goal to protect the interests of the corrupt bourgeois classes.

It has demanded that the government imposed restrictions on Osmania University be lifted immediately. In this letter, the Maoist party has called on all the students to fight unitedly until these restrictions are lifted. (NSS)

Vanguard To Establish First India Gcc In Hyderabad

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Vanguard, one of the world most respected investment management companies, on Monday announced its decision to establish its first Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad. The senior delegation from the company, led by its CEO Salim Ramji andCIO and MD of IT division Nitin Tandon, Chief Human Resources OfficeJohn Couture and Principal, Head of GCC-Vanguard India, VenkateshNatarajan called on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his residence here and held discussions on the expansion plans of the company. During the discussions, Vanguard representatives announced that their company would immediately look to hire engineers with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence, Data & amp, Analytics and Mobile Engineering at its Hyderabad facility."We're excited to be adding talent who will focus



on AI, mobile, and cloud-basedtechnologies that drive our business outcomes and deliver a world-classexperience for our clients. Hyderabad was a great obvious choice for us becauseof its diverse talent pool, quality of living, an ecosystem of tech expertise andinnovation mindset and the friendly policies of the Telangana state government," Vanguard CEO Salim Ramji said. Chief Min-

ister Revanth Reddy said, "I amdelighted to welcome Vanguard to join the irresistible and

unstoppableHyderabadRising vision. We are shaping Hyderabad into a GCC hub for the world across domains and Vanguard's endorsement will further strengthen our global positioning,". Vanguard, which operates under a unique, investor-owned structure, managesglobal assets

worth \$10 Trillion (approximately) and serves more than 50 million investors, will formally open its Hyderabad office later this year, and will employ 2,300 members over the next four years. Vanguard's Office in India is a significant milestone in its global expansion, whichuilds on a decade of partnership with third-party partners to enable it to directlyaccess talent and increase the proportion of technology crew in ts global workforce.(NSS)

FGG urges CM to take urgent action to control food adulteration in city



Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): President of Forum for Good Governance (FGG) M. Padmanabha Reddy on Saturday wrote a letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy about food adulteration affecting the health of people and requested the Chief Minister to take urgent action to control food adulteration. In his letter, the FGG president stated food adulteration has become a serious health hazard in the State, especially in Hyderabad right from '7' star hotels to road side eateries indulging in food adulteration. The number of hotels and road side eateries are existing in large number in Hyderabad and the food safety officers, who are supposed to check and control adulteration are not available in proportion to number of hotels and eateries

He stated that the Telangana State has only one food testing lab at Nacharam which is unable to cope up with the large number of samples coming for test. Added to it, the lab has no proper facilities and required staff. As against the sanctioned staff of 78 posts, only 11 persons are working leaving 67 posts vacant. "We understand that the Government of India has sanctioned three more food testing labs at Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar and Warangal. For this purpose, funds are also released, but the State Government was not taking action to establish the three new labs utilizing the funds released by Government of India. "At present, there is one mobile food testing lab in the State. The Government of India has sanctioned five mobile food testing labs and funds are also released. So far, only five vehicles are purchased and testing equipment is yet to be purchased and fitted in the vans. In this way, the State Government is not able to utilize the funds released by Government of India and they are going to be lapsed. "Earlier, it was proposed to create a cell at Collectors' offices to receive complaints from citizens regarding food adulteration. This proposal remained on paper only". Therefore, the FGG urged the Chief Minister to take immediate steps to appoint more number of food safety officers, three more labs, and five mobile labs. It also requested to pull up the officials for not taking action and allowing the Central funds to lapse.

No Change In Filthy Language Of Cm: Jagadish Reddy



Suryapet, March 31 (NSS): Former minister and BRS leader Jagadish Reddy today criticised that there had been no change in the language of CM Revanth Reddy. He was angry that the CM was making vulgar comments by forgetting that he is a Chief Minister of Telangana. He said the CM's language would only embarrass him. He said even after attaining the rank of Chief Minister, the CM's stupidity had not decreased. Jagadish Reddy was angry over CM Revanth Reddy's comments in the Huzurnagar assembly constituency. He criticized that the CM was spending his time with the same blatant lies and meaningless allegations. He commented that even after 15 months of coming to power, no assembly could be held without former CM KCR's words by the CM. "It is only due to the Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's six guarantees, the people of the State were deceived and not by the Revanth Reddy's stupid words. Jagadish Reddy said even though he promised to provide water to Kaleshwaram in three days if it was handed over to KCR, there was no response from CM Revanth Reddy. He said farmers had started facing difficulties again under the Congress rule and added that the farmers were shedding tears at their fields. He claimed that the farmers and women who are fed up, were cursing the State government and CM Revanth Reddy. "There is no farmers' crop loan waiver that the government is promising. There is no rythu bharosa scheme. There is no farmer's insurance scheme in the State," he alleged. He expressed anger that everything had been covered up and people were—called upon the farmers to wake up. He called for another cheated by the State government. He said the State gov-movement for the continuation of the Kaleshwaram project. ernment was actually buying grain because it has to give a (NSS)

bonus to the farmers. He said there was no answer from anywhere about how much grain is available. He said the officials had stopped answering the phones of the Opposition leaders. He questioned as to how much of crop was bought during the rainy season? He expressed anger that the changed promise of giving a bonus for the coarse variety of rice and said he would give a bonus only for fine grains. He said that it was not possible for the CM to live in the public sphere by spewing venom at KCR. He said that people were fearlessly enduring the Congress government's behavior even though they know that they would be in power for another three years. He also said that Revanth Reddy was saying that he would hang KCR and added that the days when the people would hang Revanth were very near. He advised that if the people rebel, they would know how they had fared if they look at the neighbouring countries. Jagadish Reddy suggested that CM Revanth Reddy should change his method and language and implement the promises made to the farmers. He demanded that the CM should answer as to how fine variety of paddy he bought last year and how much bonus he gave while claiming that No reviews have been done so far to purchase Rabi season's paddy. He said that farmers would not cultivate their fields if they were not given water. He also said that thousands of acres had been lost because the farmers were not given water and added that If they were given water for a short time, thousands of acres would be harvested. He demanded that water be given to the last acre of land. He wanted an immediate announcement on the purchase of paddy by the state government.

Jagadish Reddy reminded that 9 lakh cusecs of water was released from Medigadda through the Kaleshwaram project. He said that the officials were saying that the Kannepalli pump house was fine but added that the government does not have the means to run it. He alleged that NDSA was preventing water from coming to Kaleshwaram with an excuse. He was angry that the state government here has not got the means when AP CM Chandrababu is taking water by trampling on the rules. He

12 sex workers apprehended at Bhagyanagar Bus Stop



Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): In an operation conducted at Bhagyanagar Bus Stop under the KPHB Metro Station, Kukatpally and Madhapur areas on the night of March 28, 2025. It was conducted by Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU), Cyberabad, under the supervision of DCP,

HCU land auction should be stopped immediately

"The decision to sell the land should be withdrawn""BRS senior leader Yadav""Serilingampalli Indian Chronicle BRS senior leader Ravinder Yadav expressed his anger over the Congress government's behavior in Telangana. He was furious that conspiracies were being hatched to put government lands up for sale. He flagged that it was unfair to see HCU lands being sold."

He said that it was outrageous to want to make money by illegally selling university lands. He said that there was a risk of losing biodiversity in the HCU University area with the government's decision. He demanded that the process of auctioning 400 acres of land be stopped immediately. Otherwise, Ravinder Yadav warned that the struggle would

W& CSW, Cyberabad. As a result of the operation, 12 sex workers were apprehended and cases were registered at Kukatpally, KPHB, Gachibowli Police Stations, under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The apprehended individuals were bound over by DCP, W& CSW, Cyberabad to ensure good behaviour. Earlier, a similar operation was conducted by the same special teams, leading to the arrest of 16 individuals. Cases were registered at the concerned police stations. These individuals were also bound over by DCP, W&CSW, Cyberabad for good behaviour and subsequently released with notices issued under Section 35 of

The Cyberabad Police was strictly enforcing laws against prostitution and related activities. No form of prostitution is encouraged or tolerated within our jurisdiction. Regular operations are conducted to prevent and eliminate such illegal activities, ensuring the safety and security of all citi-



Bandi Sanjay Condemns Attack On Hcu Students



Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Union Minister Bandi Sanjay today responded to the students' agitation at Hyderabad Central University. He condemned the actions against the students by the State police. He said lathi-charge on the students was brutal. Speaking to the mediapersons on Monday, the Union Minister said there was no person in Telangana society, who was not hurt by the scenes in the media regarding the HCU lands issue and the charge over the students. He said the inhumane detention of the students by the police was brutal. He also said a terrifying atmosphere had been created in HCU. He also said it was painful to see the videos of girls being dragged away by the police. He expressed anger that the controversial lands were being levelled with JCBs at night like thieves. He questioned with what authority the police were going to HCU? He also

said it was brutal to stop and arrest the students as they do not want to sell the university lands. He said everyone was shocked after seeing those videos. He made comments by saying that they will sell the 400 acres of the university's land and rule the State. He criticized the Congress government for not being in a position to govern the Telangana State if the HCU lands were not sold. He was furious that the State government was in a position to sell the HCU lands. He said the Congress government was not in a position to even keep a yard for future generations. He said all the lands in the State would be sold. He claimed that not only ABVP activists were arrested, but they were also beaten up in the police station. He alleged that the Congress party was more anarchic than the BRS party. He demanded that the sale of the HCU lands be stopped immediately. He wanted action to be taken against the police who lathicharged the students. He questioned as to why the Education Commission chairman and members did not respond if the HCU lands were being sold. He said all of them were also supporting the sale of the HCU lands. He made it clear that the BJP would provide full support to the students' agitations. Union Minister said the people do not need a government that rules the State by selling off its lands. BJP MP Etela Rajender said Hyderabad Central University was the capital of this State. He was angry that the Revanth government was thinking of selling HCU lands to pay off debts. He said the days were passing when there is no space for cemeteries and parks. He questioned as to why Revanth Reddy is taking such evil decisions. He said there was no progress except for retrograde decisions. He said that he strongly condemned the police attack on HCU students.(NSS)

CPM warns of mass movement if govt failed to fulfil promises

Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): CPI(M) state secretary John Wesley has warned the state government that a public movement was inevitable if the Congress party does not implement the promises made in the assembly elections. He demanded that a clear policy be announced on the implementation of the six guarantees. John Wesley spoke at a press conference organized at the CPI(M) state office MB Bhavan at RTC Crossroads in Hyderabad on Saturday along with the party central committee member G Nagaiah and state secretariat member T Jyothi. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the 11-day assembly sessions ended without a comprehensive discussion on budget allocations. He explained that the government had not announced a clear policy on how the six guarantees would be implemented and how funds would be allocated. He said that the question and answer sessions in the assembly were shortened and public issues were not mentioned much even during Zero Hour. He criticized that although the Congress had promised to allocate 15 percent of funds to the education sector in its election manifesto, only 7.57 percent of the budget was allocated to the education sector . He claimed that the government was taking steps to weaken the public education sector. He said that the government was providing opportunities for students to go to private schools. He explained that if a low budget is allocated and proper infrastructure is not provided, the students would not join government schools, which will lead to their closure.

Wondering as to When will women be given Rs. 2,500,



He demanded that the government tell him when and how will be given? . He said that the agricultural workers would be given Rs. 12,000 per year but there is no mention of its implementation. He also said that the Congress had promised to give Rs. 12 lakh each to Dalits and tribals demanded that the Chevella SC and ST declaration be implemented. Stating that the Kamareddy declaration announced that Rs. 20 thousand crore would be allocated to BCs, he criticized that only Rs. 11,400 crore was allocated in the budget He said that no announcement was made about job creation and added that there was no discussion in the Assembly about unemployment allowance. He explained that there were 30 lakh poor people without houses in the state and added government has allocated funds in the budget to build houses for 4.50 lakh people. (NSS)

Special prayers in 'Oglapur Dargah' in honor of Ramjan..



""Damera /Indian Chronicle: ""Revuri Prakash Reddy held special prayers at the Oglapur Dargah on the Ramjan mountain at the Damera Mandal Oglapur. Eid Mubarak then embraced one another. All the Muslim brothers and sisters said that the Ramian festival celebrations celebrated on the festival and to be blessed with holy prayers. The Ramjan festival is a guide for humans and the advice of the truth.



The Muslim brothers celebrate the Ramjan Mountain and inspire communalism. All religions are the only one, and we need to be brotherly sense. The people of the state and the people of Parakala are always urged to have Allah blessings. He said the Congress would support the Muslim minorities. He said that the Congress government is putting a big step to protect religious harmony.

All set for launch of free fine rice distribution scheme: Uttam

Hyderabad, March 29 (NSS): Elaborate arrangements have been made in Huzurnagar for the grand launch of the Telangana government's ambitious free fine rice distribution scheme, set to be formally inaugurated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi on Sunday. Irrigation & Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy personally reviewed the preparations on Saturday at the Rajiv Gandhi Grounds in Huzurnagar, which will serve as the central venue for the launch. He inspected the stage, public arrangements, and logistical readiness for the mega public meeting that will follow the formal inauguration. Ahead of the launch, the Minister undertook a whirlwind tour of the Huzurnagar and Kodad constituencies, holding a series of coordination meetings with Congress leaders and cadres. The objective was to ensure seamless execution of the event and mobilise public participation to mark what he described as a "historic occasion." He said the scheme, aimed at ensuring food security for nearly 84% of the State's population, marks a historic shift in public welfare and is being introduced for the first time in the country. Speaking during the review meetings, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the launch of the fine rice scheme was not just a government programme but a revolutionary welfare initiative that would have far-reaching impacts on the lives of the poor and middle-class families. He said the Congress government in Telangana had taken up the imple-



mentation of this scheme with strong political will and administrative commitment. He called upon Congress workers and local leaders to make every household aware of the benefits of the scheme and ensure that every eligible beneficiary participates in the launch event. "Every citizen should feel they are part of this historic moment," he said. At present, Telangana has 89.73 lakh white ration cards covering 2.8 crore people, and following the government's announcement to issue cards to all eligible families, 30 lakh new applications have been received. With the inclusion of new beneficiaries, the total number is expected to rise to 3.10 crore. He also informed that the new ration cards will be issued shortly. While white cards will retain the tricolour design, Above Poverty Line (APL) cards will be issued in green. (NSS)

Welfare of Muslims is the aim of alliance government: MLAArani Srinivasulu



March 31,(Indian Chronicle)" Tirupati district correspondent "Ma Arani Srinivasulu said that the NDA government is committed to the welfare of Muslims. He said he would take up the issue of Idgah plains with CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and work towards resolving it. Mla Arani Srinivasulu along with his Muslim brothers participated in the Ramzan prayers held at the Idgah ground on Monday. After the prayers, MLA Arani Srinivasulu said that the month of Ramzan is special for Muslims as it is the month when the Holy Quran was incarnated. He said that the month of Ramzan is a combination of discipline, generosity and devotion. He said that after coming to power, the NDA government has been providing Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 per month to imams and maujans. He also said that rs 5,000 is being given for the maintenance of mosques. He alleged that the previous government treated Muslims as a vote bank. He said he would do his bit to resolve the Idgah plain dispute. He said chief minister Chandrababu Naidu and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan are likely to take up with Prime Minister Modi the amendments suggested by muslim elders to the Waqf Bill to be brought by the Union Government. Former MLA Sugunamma, State Yadava Sangha Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, TDP state executive secretaries Mabu Devanarayana Reddy and Dr Koduru Balasubramanya, Deputy Mayors Mudra Narayana, R C Munikrishna, Corporators SK Babu, Varikuntla Narayana, Idgah Committee Chairman SMD Rafi, Mahbub Basha, Mahesh Yadav, Munisekhar Rayal, Jana Sena leaders Raja Reddy, Nainar Srinivas, Jeeva Kona Sudha, Babji, Arcot Krishna Prasad, Amudala Venkatesh, Prabhakar Reddy and others particinated

Donating blood is equivalent to donating life: CI Sunil Kumar



""A blood donation camp was organized on Monday under the aegis of Padmavathi Arya Vaishya Yuva Kiranas, an affiliate of Sri Padmavathi Arya Vaishya Nithya Annadana Samaja Seva Samiti in Tiruchanur. Sunil Kumar was the chief guest. On this occasion, C.I. "In today's society, I appreciate the youth coming forward and setting up such a blood donation camp. Especially by donating blood, we will save another man's life," he said. He also urged everyone to undergo timely medical check-ups, identify health issues

ahead of them and take appropriate treatment and lead a completely healthy life. Everyone is advised to take care of their health and inculcate good eating habits, exercise regularly and do yoga meditation as the pressure is over. Sri Padmavathi Arya Vaishya Nithya Annadana Samaja Seva Samiti President Satish, Treasurer Ravichandra Gupta, Secretary Satish Kumar, Yuva Kiranulu President Kalyan Secretary Sairam Treasurer Anudeep, Aparna, Indira, Kumari, Reddamma and others from the women's wing were present

Proposes new SWM bylaws: BMC plans user fee for waste management; spitting, littering on roads to get costlier

GNS News Agency, March 31

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has proposed to introduce user fee for its services in waste management and increase penalties for offences like littering and spitting at public spaces. The proposal comes in the revision of its Solid Waste Management (SWM) bylaws the first such revision in 19 years. The draft of the new policy will be made available on the BMC's website between April 1 and May 31, 2025. During this period, residents can send their suggestions and objections following which a public hearing will be called. The move to introduce SWM user fee was announced by Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani during the civic body's budget presented in February. The SWM bylaws, which came into existence in 2006, are a set of regulations under which SWM operations are carried out in Mumbai. "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report of the government has mandated collection of user fee for all urban local bodies in Mumbai. Almost all the major civic bodies including Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata had implemented it already. Therefore, as part of the new bylaws, we have proposed an introduction of these charges," Deputy Municipal Commissioner (SWM) Kiran Dighavkar told the Indian Express. He also said that the user fee charges could be incorporated with the property tax bills in order to facilitate ease of payment for residents. Meanwhile, according to the proposed guidelines. the BMC has increased the penalty of littering and spitting on roads to Rs 500 and Rs 250 from Rs 200. As per the proposal, Rs 300 will be fined from people bathing at public spaces, while the current penalty is Rs 100. Urinating and defecating at open will invite a penalty of Rs 500, compared to the existing fine of Rs 100.

The BMC has also proposed a penalty of Rs 200 on individual waste generators and Rs 1,000 on bulk waste generators (BWS) for delivering non-segregated waste. Earlier this week, the BMC had proposed to hike the penalty of garbage burning from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000. In the



proposed guidelines, the authorities maintained that commercial properties found burning waste at public spaces will be charged Rs 10,000 as penalty. Penalty for littering and defecation of pets at public spaces have also been revised to Rs 1,000 from Rs 500. The BMC has also proposed a penalty of Rs 20,000 for unauthorised dumping of constructing debris and Rs 25,000 for transporting construction debris without taking approval from authorities.

With the introduction of SWM charges, the authorities aim to generate an additional revenue of Rs 687 crore annually from residential units alone. According to the proposed structure, residential units that have a built up area less than 50 square meters will be charged Rs 100 per month, units having an area between 50 square meters and 300 square meters will be charged Rs 500, while any residential unit above 500 square meters will have to pay Rs 1,000 every month. Hotels and restaurants will be levied a monthly fee between Rs 1,500 and Rs 7,500 depending on their categorisation while clinics and dispensaries will be charged between Rs 2,000 and Rs 5,000 depending on their bed capacity. Commercial establishments like small shops will have to pay Rs 500, while banquets and public halls will have to pay charges between Rs 5,000 and Rs 7,500 depending on their capacity."

Greetings on the occasion of Ugadi festival

"Miyapur General Secretary Uday Kiran ""Miyapur On the occasion of the Ugadi festival, Serilingampally constituency congress youth leader and Miyapur General Secretary Yalamanchi Uday Kiran, along with his team, met with Serilingampally Constituency Congress Party In-charge V. Jagadishwar Goud to extend their greetings on the occasion of Ugadi festival. "Team members Sharath, Vinod, Vamshi, Kamineni Vasu, Praveen, Nagasai, Simhachalam, Chari, Abhiram, and others participated in this program.



BC LEADERS AND DELIGATES GOING TO DILHI



"" In the Medak district BC leaders and delegates Monday going to dilhi on the specil train from cherlapally railway station because of theire demanded 42 persent reservation on the upcoming elactions, the congress governament has to be anonced 42 persent reservation on



the up coming elaction that will be passed parlament members that is the reason bc deliigates leaders went to dilhi in this program congress pcc state member palle ramchander goud, ex mptc medak ramesh, bc wise president chinnaling mallikarjun goud, narender goud, yadagiri yadav, bonla srinivas, sudhakar, pasuloty motilaal atended.

Award-winning short film by medical students puts forward often forgotten stories from hospitals

GNS News Agency, March 31

'The Staircase: A Journey of Emotions' short filmPart of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Pune film festival, the short film has also bagged several awards. Staircases are present in nearly every part of our lives, quietly witnessing many moments and memories. This particular staircase guides one through a day in a hospital, a place that's more than just its doctors and patients. It's a space full of untold stories that unfold daily and in the short film, The Staircase: A Journey of Emotions, students of Smt Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital have brought a few of them which are often overlooked or forgotten. Part of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Pune film festival, the short film has also bagged several awards.

Dr Ajay Patil, Forensic Medicine and Toxicology department head, who directed the 16-minute short film, said The Staircase is a poignant slice-of-life story that seeks to capture the essence of time. "Through this staircase, you'll discover the hidden lives and emotions of those within the hospital—stories often overlooked or forgotten," he said.

The story was conceptualised and created by a medical college student Faraj Shaikh and according to Dr Patil they saw a great potential in it to express different sides and stories of people associated with the medical field. "Be it a doctor or a patient, a paramedic staff or a watchman, everyone has their own story... and this storyline could provide light on each one of them," Dr Sagar Patil, a resident doctor at the college who acted and co-directed the film along with Dr Malhar Thorat.The Staircase: A Journey of Emotions The Staircase: A Journey of Emotions

"This short film was made entirely by the students of the college. From scripting, all the way to the music and direction or even sweeping the sets, medical students and staff did everything," Dr Sagar Patil said while adding that the motivation behind all this was Dr Ajay Patil's vision to create an ecosystem and culture of short films in the college. "The college director Dr A V Bhore and dean Dr K B Patil helped and supported the project which received five international awards," Dr Sagar Patil added. Among the stories includes that of a man, Prashant, who lost his wife and



children due to COVID in the hospital during the pandemic. "Since then, Prashant felt he had lost everything. He became an alcoholic and started going to the hospital where he lost his dear ones, talking to the Staircase. It was right in front of the staircase where Prashant's wife and childrens' bodies were kept. The film reflects upon how the staircases observe everything around them, yet remain silent," Dr Patil said

Yet another tale in the film is woven around Shekhar, a businessman who earned a lot of money, but went through a lot of personal tragedies. After losing his wife, his life revolves around his daughter who also dies tragically in the hospital. He gets psychologically disturbed when he hears another patient sharing the news of a newborn daughter to someone over a phone call. "Here again the staircase is a witness to these events," Dr Ajay Patil who also pursued his passion from drama, theatre and films by completing two courses from Film and Television Institute of India and worked with noted actor and director Dr Mohan Agashe. The five international awards won by the film are best short-film winner attainment award at Dreamz Catcher International Film Festival 2024, second best director award at Shunyatam International Film Festival 2024, best inspirational film award at Shunyatam International Film Festival 2024 and was among the official selection at International Kolkata Short-film festival 2024 and Abhijaat Short film festival 2024. IMA - Pune felicitated the entire team at an event

Hotter-than-usual summer ahead as IMD warns of more heatwave days in many States

GNS News Agency, March 31

New Delhi: India is expected to experience hotter-thanusual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains, the IMD said on Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference. "From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of northwest India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said. Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April to June.

An IMD official had earlier said northwest India might face double the number of heatwave days during the summer. The region normally experiences five to six heatwave days during the season. States likely to see above-

normal heatwave days include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

In April, most parts of India will likely witness higher-than-usual maximum temperatures. However, some areas in the extreme southern and the northwestern regions may experience normal temperatures. Minimum temperatures will be higher than usual across most of the country, except for a few places in the northwest and the northeast where temperatures may be normal or slightly below normal, Mohapatra said. Experts have warned that India should prepare for a peak electricity demand growth of 9 to 10 per cent this summer season, with the country expected to experience a higher number of heatwave days. Last year, the all-India peak electricity demand crossed 250 gigawatts (GW) on May 30 — 6.3 per cent higher than projections. Climate change-induced heat stress is one of the key factors driving electricity demand.

Cabinet berth aspirants make a beeline to New Delhi, ignore State leadership

GNS News Agency, March 31

HYDERABAD: As the Congress high is making it explicit that it has the final say in the Telangana poliitical affairs, aspirants of cabinet berths and other posts are making a beeline to New Delhi.By nominating the actor-turnedpolitician Vijayashanthi as a member of the Legislative Council, the high command has sent a clear and unmissable signal that it calls the shots and definitely not the State leadership. The candidature of Vijayashanti was never in the reckoning and the state leaders floated several names for nomination to the council, but the high command took the winds out of sails of many leaders by announcing the Vijayashanti as a candidate for the MLC polls. Now, with the Cabinet expansion being imminent after Ugadi festival, a few aspirants have landed in New Delhi and are meeting the AICC leaders, as they seem to have realised that State leadership's opinions were definitely sought but ultimately it is the high command, which takes the final decision. Accordingly, the leaders are now sidelining the State leadership and intensifying their lobbying in New Delhi.

Already, Narsampeta MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy met AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC Telangana incharge Meenakshi Natarajan in the national capital. Pictures of the MLA meeting the AICC leaders are already going

viral on different social media platforms. Donthi Madhava Reddy has been aspiring for Cabinet berth since long. Despite being active in erstwhile Warangal Congress unit affairs, he had skipped Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's programmes in the district in the past, reflecting the state of affairs. His supporters are backing his candidature for cabinet berth irrespective of the fact that PRRD Minister D Anasuya and Forest Minister Konda Surekha are also from Warangal. There are two Ministers from Nalgonda. A senior leader is already claiming that cabinet berth has been confirmed to him, besides he declared the portfolio as well. If there can be three Ministers from Nalgonda, why cannot there be three from Warangal, Donthi Madhava Reddy's supporters argue. Not just Narsampeta MLA, a few others, including Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Rangareddy, Devarkonda MLA Balu Naik, MLC Shankar Naik and few others flew to New Delhi, reports said. There are six vacancies in the cabinet. Apart from cabinet expansion, there is buzz in Gandhi Bhavan that there could be reshuffle of portfolios as well. Sensing opportunities, aspirants are leaving no stone unturned to impress the high command and are lobbying hard. Amidst the lobbying, the leaders have made a few things evident that henceforth they would bypass the State leadership and maintain a direct relation with high command to get their issues resolved.

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Kunal Kamra case: Madras High Court grants interim anticipatory bail to comedian in Eknath Shinde controversy row

GNS News Agency, March 28

The Madras High Court on Friday (March 28, 2025) granted interim protection from arrest to popular stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra (36) in a case booked against him by the Khar police in Mumbai for having allegedly made slanderous comments against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his latest comedy show titled 'Naya Bharat.Justice Sunder Mohan ordered notice, returnable by April 7, to the Khar police in Mumbai on the comedian's main plea for grant of inter-State anticipatory bail until he could approach the Bombay High Court for obtaining regular bail. In the meantime, the judge granted interim anticipatory bail so that the comedian does not get arrested. For the purpose of obtaining the interim relief, the petitioner was directed to execute a bond, along with two sureties, to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district since it was reported that he had shifted his residence from Mumbai to Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu in 2021.

The relief was granted after hearing the petitioner's counsel V. Suresh, assisted by S. Tanvi, who claimed that his client had not named anyone, much less Mr. Shinde in the comedy show, and Government Advocate (criminal side) S. Santhosh representing the Auroville police in Villupuram district. In his petition, Mr. Kamra had said that though he was born in Mumbai, he shifted his residence to Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu in February 2021 because he was desirous of leading a quiet life in a rural area. He, however, travels widely for performing his shows in different venues. His latest show titled 'Naya Bharat' was performed in Mumbai in February this year and the video was uploaded on his YouTube channel on February 23.A month later, a group claiming to be political activists vandalised the venue where the show was performed at Khar in Mumbai. On the same day (March 23, 2025), the MLA lodged a police complaint accusing the petitioner of having defamed Mr. Shinde by making slanderous comments about



the latter's conduct."It is pertinent to mention here that the disputed songs/poem narrated by the petitioner does not name anyone, leave alone the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra," yet the police promptly registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the comedian and summoned him for inquiry on March 23, 2025. The summons were served upon the petitioner's parents in Mumbai. On coming to know about it, the petitioner made a request to the Khar police to permit him to appear for inquiry through video conferencing and also sought two weeks to appear before the investigating officer concerned. In response, the police intimated him that he could appear on March 30, but there was no clarification as to whether he could appear through video call. In the meantime, the petitioner complained to have received a barrage of death threats from politicians as well as through anonymous phone calls. Listing out the threats he had received, the petitioner feared people might cause harm to either to him or his loved ones. He also feared the Mumbai police might arrest him and subject him to physical torture if he had to wait until the Bombay High Court grants him anticipatory bail. Further, highlighting that the Bombay High Court would be on leave for a considerable number of days in the first three weeks of April, the petitioner urged the Madras High Court to grant him inter-State anticipatory bail until he could obtain regular anticipatory bail from the Bombay High Court.

Malla Reddy lauds 21st Century IAS Academy for free master class sessions on civil services

GNS News Agency, March 31

Hyderabad: Malla Reddy Group of Institutions Chairman and Medchal MLA Ch Malla Reddy on Friday commended the 21st Century IAS Academy, Hyderabad, for its free master class orientation sessions on civil services designed for engineering and other graduates.21st Century IAS Academy chairman P Krishna Pradeep and director Bhavani Shankar met the MLA at the Malla Reddy University campus here to brief him about the initiative, which is being conducted as part of the academy's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSP)

cial Responsibility (CSR).

Recognising the significance of such programmes,

Malla Reddy assured his support and announced plans to organise a large-scale seminar for civil service aspirants in June on the varsity campus. He also emphasised the need for students to aspire for prestigious roles like IAS and IPS, beyond the conventional career paths in software and multinational companies.

Extending his best wishes to the academy, Malla Reddy lauded its commitment to guiding civil services aspirants. Pradeep felicitated the MLA for his encouragement and support toward educational initiatives. Malla Reddy Institutions Director of Operations Praveen Reddy was also present during the meeting.

Enrollment crisis hits Telangana public schools



GNS News Agency, March 31

Hyderabad: The Telangana government-run schools are facing an enrollment crisis with over three lakh slump in admissions during the academic year 2024-25. The huge drop in admissions is attributed to growing dissatisfaction with quality of education and infrastructure extended in government run schools, forcing parents to enroll their wards in private schools. The official statistics indicate that enrollment of students in government-run schools has been consistently decreasing. While it was 28,80,09 in the academic year 2022-23, it dropped to 26,36,630 in 2023-24 and 25,13,435 in the current academic year, which is 3,67,374 less admissions when compared to 2022-23. On the other hand, the private schools' admissions went up from 30,17,877 in 2022-23 to 34,05,430 in 2023-24 to 37,01,814 in 2024-25. This enrollment drop in Telangana public schools and increase in private schools' reflect a clear sign of faith by parents in private institutions.

Lack of one teacher for one class, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources and absence of supervision on teachers and schools are among other key factors that are driving parents to enroll their wards in private schools. One of the major factors is the absence of one teacher for one class. In several government primary schools, one and two teachers are deputed for a strength of 30 and 60 students, while private schools ensure one teacher for one class.

We have been asking the government to merge schools with less enrollment and allot one teacher for one class. The State does not require 18,000 primary schools but 10,000 will suffice. Pre-primary sections must be started in government primary schools, which will help increase enrollment," says Chava Ravi, president, Telangana State United Teachers Federation. Further, the academics in the government-run schools are taking a beating due to deviation from the academic calendar and additional responsibilities handed over to the teachers, which is not the case with the private schools. "There is a need to increase actual teaching days. The formative assessment examinations have to be reduced, as they take the majority of the working days. This will enhance classroom teaching and thereby learning among students, creating confidence among parents," said P Raja Bhanu Chandra Prakash, headmaster ZPHS Pachunur.

Absence of supervision on the schools has also contributed to decline admissions. Except for five districts, the remaining districts do not have a regular District Education Officer (DEO), while the deputy DEO and Mandal Educational Officer (MEO) posts have not been filled up for the last several years. "The government must fill up the vacancies to MEO, Deputy DEO and DEO posts to improve monitoring schools and strengthen the public education system," Ravi said. As for the infrastructure, the past BRS government had initiated the 'Mana Ooru-Mana Badi', a flagship programme to strengthen and create facilities in 26,072 government and local body schools under 12 components in a phased manner. However, the programme was shelved by the present administration. Though the government had constituted the Amma Adarsha Patashala Committee to improve infrastructure in the schools, the works do not show

Putin suggests putting Ukraine under UN sponsored external governance, boasts battlefield gains

GNS News Agency, March 31

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed on Friday (March 28, 2025) to put Ukraine under external governance under the U.N. aegis as part of efforts to reach a peaceful settlement, a blustery statement that reflected the Kremlin leader's determination to achieve his war goals. Speaking to the crew of a Russian nuclear submarine in televised remarks broadcast early on Friday (March 28, 2025), Mr. Putin reaffirmed his claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose term expired last year, lacks the legitimacy to sign a peace deal. Under Ukraine's constitution it is illegal for the country to hold national elections while it's under martial law.Mr. Putin claimed that any agreement that is signed with the current Ukrainian government could be challenged by its successors and said new elections could be held under external governance. "Under the auspices of the United Nations, with the United States, even with European countries, and, of course, with our partners and friends, we could discuss the possibility of introduction of temporary governance in Ukraine," Putin said, adding that it would allow the country to "hold democratic elections, to bring to power a viable government that enjoys the trust of the people, and then begin negotiations with them on a peace treaty."He added that such external governance is just "one of the options," without elaborating.Mr. Putin's remarks came hours after the conclusion of a summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron that considered plans to deploy troops to Ukraine to cement an eventual peace deal. Macron said "several" other nations want to be part of the force alongside France and Britain. Russia has warned it wouldn't accept any troops from NATO members as part of a prospective peacekeeping force.Mr. Macron and other participants of the Paris summit on Thursday accused Russia of only pretending to want a negotiated settlement.

"They are playing games and they're playing for time," said U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "We can't let them drag this out while they continue prosecuting their illegal invasion."Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a tentative U.S-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure, but quickly accused each other of violations, underscoring the challenges to negotiating a broader peace. Russia launched 163 strike and decoy drones at Ukraine late Thursday, according to the Ukrainian air force, which said that 89 of them were downed and 51 more iammed. The drones damaged multiple residential buildings and injured a 19-year-old in Zaporizhzhia, regional head Ivan Fedorov said. In Poltava, drones damaged warehouses, administrative building, and a high-voltage transformer, according to regional head Volodymyr Kohut. Damage to buildings and infrastructure facilities was also reported by the authorities in the Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Mykolaiv regions. Ukraine's state-run gas company, Naftogaz, said



Friday that its facilities came under Russian fire without specifying its time and location. The Russian Defense Ministry said that Ukrainian forces struck a gas metering station in Sudzha in the Kursk region with U.S.-made HIMARS rockets, completely destroying the facility. It said another Ukrainian strike on an energy facility in Russia's Bryansk region led to a power cutoff, and added that air defenses downed 19 Ukrainian drones that attempted to strike an oil refinery in Saratov.

The ministry charged that the continuing strikes show that Kyiv's pledge of adherence to a U.S.-proposed halt on strikes on energy facilities was just "another ruse by Zelenskyy to prevent the collapse of Ukrainian defenses and to restore military potential with the help of European allies "While I lkraine has agreed to a full, 30-day ceasefire that Trump has proposed, Putin has made a complete ceasefire conditional on a halt of arms supplies to Kyiv and a suspension of Ukraine's military mobilization — demands rejected by Ukraine and its Western allies. Russian troops have made slow but steady gains in several sectors of the more than 1.000-kilometer (over 620-mile) frontline, and Zelenskyy warned Thursday that Russia was trying to drag out talks in preparation for bigger offensives.Mr. Putin declared in overnight remarks that the Russian troops have "gained steam" and "are holding strategic initiative all along the line of contact."He noted that Russia is open to a peaceful settlement, but emphasized the need to "remove root causes that led to the current situation.

""We certainly need to ensure Russia's security for a long historic perspective," he said.Mr. Putin has demanded that Kyiv withdraw its forces from the four regions Moscow has partially seized. He also wants Ukraine to renounce joining NATO, sharply cut its army and legally protect Russian language and culture to keep the country in Moscow's orbit.Russian officials also have said that any prospective peace deal should involve unfreezing Russian assets in the West and lifting other U.S. and European Union sanctions. The Trump administration has said it would consider potential sanctions relief.

Challenges of three-language policy: Regional variations, parental strain, and educational disparities

While a political war over words over the three-language formula is being fought, it may be time to review how the three-language policy is being implemented on the ground. Learning the third language has posed significant logistical challenges. Further, Hindi-speaking states have been lukewarm towards the three-language policy, with most choosing Sanskrit rather than any regional language. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, the first language is English, the second is Hindi, and Sanskrit is the third language. In contrast, Madhya Pradesh continues to follow a two-language policy, with English as the first language and Hindi as the second. In Jharkhand, the third language is primarily Sanskrit, though some schools also offer regional languages such as Santhali. Similarly, in Chhattisgarh, Sanskrit is predominantly offered alongside a regional language such as Gondi. The day-to-day challenges that parents and children face due to the three-language policy are varied and significant. Ms. Sanchita, a parent from Haryana, recounts her difficulties in finding a CBSE school in Uttar Pradesh that offered Spanish as a third language, similar to what her son had studied in his previous school. "When moving, these decisions take a toll on vou. Some schools only offered Sanskrit and German, while others provided Sanskrit and French as options," she says. Her son's transition to a new school in the eighth standard complicated the situation further. However, she acknowledges that the new school follows the National Curriculum Framework and starts teaching the third language only after class 5, providing a structured approach to language acquisition.Ms. Padma, who moved from Bengaluru to Coimbatore, describes the challenges her son faced in adjusting to Tamil as his third language. In Bengaluru, her son had studied Kannada as his third language, and in Coimbatore, he was required to learn Tamil. Despite the difficulty, Padma notes that her son only has to complete worksheets and is not evaluated on the language until class 5. "The transition was tough for him, but it was made easier by the fact that there is no formal evaluation until later," she says. In a similar vein, Ms. Peusha, a parent from Haryana, faces a dilemma with her child's language options. "My child's school offers German, Sanskrit, and Urdu in class 6. It's a difficult decision because I'm unsure how these languages will impact my child's career or life prospects," she explains. Ms. Anamika Sood, Principal of Greater Valley School in Greater Noida, shares that their school provides a comprehensive and engaging language curriculum in line with CBSE guidelines. "From Class IV to Class VIII, students are required to study three languages: English and Hindi as mandatory subjects, with the option to choose between Sanskrit, French, or German as their third language,' she explains. To ensure effective learning, each language programme is led by a dedicated, trained facilitator with specialized knowledge. The curriculum follows level-wise

textbooks for progressive learning, while the school library

offers an extensive collection of supplementary resources

to further enhance students' language skills

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus meets Chinese President Xi Jinping



GNS News Agency, March 31

Mr. Yunus, on a four-day visit to China, took part in the country's Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan after his arrival there on Wednesday (March 26, 2025). He arrived in Beijing on Thursday (March 27, 2025) and was received at the airport by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong. Gearing up for his meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Yunus called on China on Thursday (March 27, 2025) to reduce interest rates for Chinese loans and waive commitment fees on Chinese-funded projects.

In his meeting with the Chinese Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, Mr. Yunus sought Chinese sup-

port in an array of development projects, Bangladesh media reports said. He also called for a reduction of interest rates for Chinese loans from three per cent to 1-2 per cent to Bangladesh and sought a waiver of commitment fees on the Chinese-funded projects in Bangladesh. China is Bangladesh's fourth-largest lender after Japan, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, with total loans disbursed since 1975 coming to \$7.5 billion, according to a report in the Daily Star newspaper of Bangladesh.

In his meeting with Ding, Yunus sought Beijing's help in facilitating the relocation of the Chinese manufacturing industries, including ready-made garments, electric vehicles, light machinery, high-tech electronics, chip manufacturing and the solar panel industry. On the sidelines of the forum, Mr. Yunus also met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk, who expressed Moscow's interest in exporting more wheat and fertiliser to Bangladesh."Russia would like to export more wheat and fertiliser to Bangladesh," he said. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the operationalisation of the Russia-funded Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.Mr. Yunus also met former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who is the Chairman of the Boao Forum, and sought support and advice for a smooth transition to democracy in Bangladesh."We want to start anew; we need your support and advice. We are having a great opportunity now," Yunus was quoted by the daily as say-

Powerful Myanmar earthquake kills dozens, also hits Thailand

BANGKOK, GNS News Agency, March 31, A powerful earthquake killed dozens of people in Myanmar on Friday, according to state media, toppling buildings and damaging infrastructure over a wide area. The quake also hit Thailand and an official said that at least nine people had died in the capital Bangkok. Rescuers were searching through the rubble of a tower block that was under construction and collapsed in the quake. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. Much of the destruction took place in Mandalay, which is Myanmar's second largest city and lies only about 17 km (10 miles) from the quake epicentre. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the quake, which struck at lunchtime, was of 7.7 magnitude and at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles).

Mandalay, with a population of about 1.5 million, is Myanmar's ancient royal capital and the centre of its Buddhist heartland. Buildings, bridges and roads were wrecked, residents and local media said. State-run MRTV said at least 144 people had been killed in Myanmar and 732 injured. "We all ran out of the house as everything started shaking," a Mandalay resident told Reuters. "I witnessed a five-storey building collapse in front of my eyes. Everyone in my town is out on the road and no one dares to go back inside buildings." A rescue worker from the Moe Saydanar charity group told Reuters it had retrieved at least 60 bodies from monasteries and buildings in Pyinmanar, near Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw, and more people were trapped.

"This 60 is only from my charity group and only at Pyinmanar town," he said. Myanmar's military junta is locked in a struggle to put down insurgents fighting its rule, a situation that is likely to complicate the rescue and relief operation. The graphic map shows shakemap intensity near the region of Mandalay. Junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing said there would be more deaths and casualties and he invited "any country" to provide help and donations. He said on state television he had opened routes for international assistance

Zin Mar Aung, the diplomatic spokesman for the opposition National Unity Government, said tighters from the anti-junta militias known as the People's Defence Forces would provide humanitarian help. A United States government analysis based on the strength and depth of the quake in Myanmar estimated there could be thousands of deaths and severe economic loss, with the Sagaing and Meiktila regions worst hit. Of the confirmed casualties in the Thai capital, eight died in the building collapse while the ninth person died in a different location, Bangkok's Deputy Governor Tavida Kamolvej said. The rescue operation at the building site said more than 100 people were missing. The quake was followed by a powerful aftershock and several more moderate ones. In Myanmar the earthquake caused the collapse of buildings in five cities and towns, as well as a railway bridge and a road bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, Myanmar state media said. Images showed the destroyed Ava Bridge over the Irrawaddy River, its arches leaning into the water. A Mandalay resident said destruction stretched across the whole city, and one neighbourhood, Sein Pan, was on fire. Item 1 of 16 Motorists ride past a damaged building in Mandalay, Myanmar, March 28. Roads were damaged, phone lines disrupted and there was no electricity, said the resident, who declined to be named.Local media outlet Myanmar Now posted images showing a clock tower had collapsed, and part of the wall by Mandalay Palace was in ruins. A witness, Htet Naing Oo, told Reuters that a tea shop had collapsed with several



people trapped inside. "We couldn't go in," she said. "The situation is very bad." At least three people died after a mosque in Taungoo partially collapsed, two witnesses said. "We were saying prayers when the shaking started... Three died on the spot," one said. Local media reported a hotel in Aung Ban, in Shan state, crumbled into rubble, with the Democratic Voice of Burma reporting two people had died and 20 were trapped.

Army-run MRTV reported that the quake toppled buildings, crushed cars and left huge fissures on roads across the capital Naypyitaw. Amnesty International said the earthquake could not have come at a worse time for Myanmar, given the number of displaced people, the existing need for relief aid, and cuts to U.S. aid by President Donald Trump's administration. Restricted media access meant a clear picture of the extent of damage and loss might not emerge for some time, the group's Myanmar researcher, Joe Freeman, said. Since overthrowing the elected civilian government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, the military has struggled to run the country, leaving the economy and basic services like healthcare in tatters. An armed opposition, comprising established ethnic armies and new resistance groups formed since the coup, has seized swathes of territory and driven the junta out of border areas, increasingly hemming it into the central lowlands. The fighting has displaced more than three million people in Myanmar, with widespread food insecurity and over a third of the population in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the United Nations. The country has also been hit by natural disasters in recent years, including Typhoon Yagi last year and Cyclone Mocha in 2023, and the internationally isolated junta has struggled to respond adequately. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, a Myanmar academic at the University of Bristol, said Myanmar was "wholly unable to deal with the shock and its aftermath" due to the breakdown in civil society. In Bangkok, people ran onto the streets in panic, among them hotel quests in bathrobes and swimming costumes, as water cascaded down from an elevated pool at a luxury hotel, witnesses said. The Stock Exchange of Thailand suspended all trading activities for the Friday afternoon session. One office tower in downtown Bangkok swayed from side to side for at least two minutes, with doors and windows creaking loudly, witnesses said."At first, I didn't realise (it was an earthquake)," office worker Varunyou Armarttayakul told Reuters. "But then I saw the table shaking, and the chair and computer started swaying, too ... Part of the ceiling even collapsed — that's when I had to run out." Myanmar lies on the boundary between two tectonic plates and is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, though large and destructive earthquakes have been relatively rare in the Sagaing region. Reporting by Bangkok Bureau, Shoon Naing Writing by Raju Gopalakrishnan, John Mair and Angus MacSwan Editing by Shri Navaratnam and Frances

What is classified information? Are war plans classified?

Washington: The Donald Trump administration's use of a popular messaging app to discuss sensitive military plans — with a journalist on the text chain — is raising questions about security and the importance of safeguarding the nation's secrets. It's also highlighting the differences between classified and public information, and demonstrating that even encrypted apps like Signal can lead to embarrassing leaks if the humans doing the texting don't follow basic security tips. President Donald Trump's administration says no classified material was leaked when senior officials used Signal to discuss upcoming attack plans against the Houthi rebels in Yemen — even though a journalist was on the

But even if the information had been declassified by the Pentagon, it contained details that would have been highly valuable to the Houthis or other adversaries, showing how sometimes the decision of what to classify is a judgment call. The federal government routinely classifies vast amounts of information pertaining to military and intelligence operations. The material ranges from top secret nuclear programmes or the identities of undercover agents all the way to mundane records that would be of little interest to anyone, let alone America's adversaries. In 2011, for example, the CIA finally declassified its recipe for invisible ink

Advocates for open government have long complained that the push for secrecy goes too far, by protecting information that could shine a light on government activities or matters of public interest, including about UFO sightings and a 60-year-old Presidential assassination. While the public typically calls any information withheld by the government "classified", that term only refers to the three broad categories used to "classify" information based on the need for secrecy: confidential, secret and top secret. While files marked "confidential" contain information that's not meant to be released, the need for security or access restrictions isn't as great as for material considered "top secret", which includes the nation's nuclear secrets and other material that, if released, could pose a grave danger to national security.

While the Pentagon hasn't offered classification details about the information in the Signal chats, information about upcoming military strikes is typically tightly guarded to ensure adversaries don't have advance warning that could jeopardize the mission or put American service members at risk. The Pentagon closely guards even some publicly available information.

Material categorised as "controlled unclassified information", while not secret, is still considered sensitive enough that military service members are prohibited from discussing it on unsecured devices like personal phones.

Vance lands in Greenland, says US to expand focus on Arctic security for 'decades'



GNS News Agency, March 31

NUUK, Greenland, U.S. Vice President JD Vance said on arrival in Greenland on Friday that U.S. interest in Arctic security would grow for decades, suggesting no letup in President Donald Trump's push for American control of the semi-autonomous Danish territory. The visit to the U.S. military base at Pituffik in the north of the Arctic island comes just hours after a new broad government coalition, which aims to keep ties with Denmark for now, was presented in the capital Nuuk. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here

Vance greeted members of the U.S. armed forces shortly after his arrival, thanking them for their service on the remote base located 750 miles (1,200 km) north of the Arctic Circle. "The president is really interested in Arctic security, as you all know, and it's only going to get bigger over the coming decades," Vance said.

"It's cold as shit here. Nobody told me," Vance said, prompting laughs, adding it was his first visit to the island. The outside temperature at Pituffik was minus 3 degrees Fahrenheit (-19 C). Greenland's new prime minister said the U.S. visit signalled a "lack of respect" and called for unity in the face of "pressure from outside".

Denmark's king issued a statement of support on social media. "We live in an altered reality. There should be no doubt that my love for Greenland and my connectedness to the people of Greenland are intact," King Frederik said. The U.S. delegation also includes Vance's wife Usha, national security adviser Mike Waltz and Energy Secretary Chris Wright. The initial plan for the trip had been for Vance's wife to visit a dog-sled race on the island together with Waltz, even though they were not invited by authorities in either Greenland or Denmark. Public protests and outrage from authorities in both Greenland and Denmark prompted the U.S. delegation to only fly to the military base and not meet the public.

Under the terms of a 1951 agreement, the U.S. is entitled to visit its base whenever it wants, as long as it notifies Greenland and Copenhagen. Pituffik is located along the shortest route from Europe to North America and is vital for the U.S. ballistic missile warning system. Trump reiterated his desire to take over Greenland as recently as

Wednesday, saying the U.S. needs the strategically located island for national and international security.

"So, I think we'll go as far as we have to go. We need Greenland and the world needs us to have Greenland, including Denmark," he said. The island, whose capital is closer to New York than the Danish capital Copenhagen, boasts mineral, oil and natural gas wealth, but development has been slow and the mining sector has seen very limited U.S. investment. Mining companies operating in Greenland are mostly Australian, Canadian or British.

A White House official has said Greenland has an ample supply of rare earth minerals that would power the next generation of the U.S. economy. Greenland's new Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen on Friday urged political unity."At a time when we as a people are under pressure, we must stand together," Nielsen said at a press conference. His pro-business party, the Democrats, which favours a gradual independence from Denmark, emerged as the biggest party in a March 11 election. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, who had called the initial plans for the U.S. visit "unacceptable", congratulated Greenland on its new government in a post on Instagram: "I look forward to close cooperation in an unnecessarily conflict-ridden time. "The question now is how far Trump is willing to push his idea of taking over the island, said Andreas Oesthagen, a senior researcher on Arctic politics and security at the Oslo-based Fridtjof Nansen Institute."It is still unlikely that the United States will use military means," he told Reuters."But it is unfortunately likely that President Trump and Vice President Vance will continue to use other means of pressure, such as ambiguous statements, semiofficial visits to Greenland, and economic instruments," he added. By revising the trip, the Trump administration is seeking to refocus the discussion on the topics it is interested in: the U.S. presence on Greenland, military capabilities available, and the wider security of the Arctic, said Catherine Sendak, head of the Transatlantic Defense and Security programme at the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Washington-based think tank."A change of course was needed," Sendak told Reuters. However, some residents in Nuuk remained angry at the Trump administration ahead of Vance's visit."I am a human. Humans are not for sale. We are not for sale," Tungutaq Larsen, a filmmaker, told Reuters.

Polls have shown that nearly all Greenlanders oppose becoming part of the United States. Anti-American protesters, some wearing "Make America Go Away" caps and holding "Yankees Go Home" banners, have staged some of the largest demonstrations ever seen in Greenland.On Thursday, residents in Nuuk planted Greenlandic flags in the snow and a cardboard sign in English that said "Our Land. Our Future".U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said on Tuesday he wants to make mineral-rich, strategically placed Greenland a part of the United States. Reporting by Tom Little and Leonhard Foeger in Nuuk, Gwladys Fouche and Terje Solsvik in Oslo, Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen, Louise Breusch Rasmussen and Stine Jacobsen in Copenhagen; Writing by Gwladys Fouche; Editing by Frances Kerry and Alison WilliamsOur Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tab

South Sudan says Vice President Machar will be investigated, raising war fears

NAIROBI, GNS News Agency, March 31, South Sudan's First Vice President Riek Machar is under arrest and will be investigated, the government said on Friday the first official confirmation of a detention that world powers fear could tip the nation back into war. Reports that Machar - a longtime rival of President Salva Kiir - had been arrested on Wednesday prompted international calls for restraint. Neighbouring Kenya sent its former prime minister, Raila Odinga, to defuse tensions. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

Machar's party said this week that his detention had effectively voided a 2018 peace deal that ended a five-year civil war between Kiir's Dinka forces and Nuer fighters loyal to Machar.Government spokesperson and information minister Michael Makuei said in a statement that "Machar and his anti-peace colleagues of (Machar's party) the SPLM/A-IO, who are under arrest will be investigated and brought to book accordingly."He accused Machar of seeking to launch a rebellion against the government "with the aim of disrupting peace so that elections are not held and South Sudan goes back to war," without going into more detail. "The Peace Agreement has not collapsed and shall not under any circumstances," Makuei said. There was no immediate response from Machar or his party to the allegations.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday the peace process was in a shambles and asked its leaders to put down the weapons and put all the people of South Sudan first."Let's not mince words: What we are seeing is darkly reminiscent of the 2013 and 2016 civil wars, which killed 400,000 people," Guterres told reporters in New York, referring to episodes in the conflict. Item 1 of 3 South Sudan's ex-vice president and former rebel leader Riek Machar exits a plane as he arrives to Juba to meet President Salva Kiir, at the Juba international airport, South Sudan, September 9, 2019. Machar's party has previously denied government accusations that it backs the White Army, an ethnic militia largely comprising Nuer youths, which clashed with the army in the northeastern town of Nasir this month, triggering the latest crisis. In response to the fighting, Kiir's forces rounded up several of Machar's senior allies, including the petroleum minister and the deputy head of the



army. There have been clashes in recent days between forces loyal to the two men outside Juba and elsewhere. Kenyan President William Ruto, who chairs the East African Community bloc, said he had spoken to Kiir about Machar's detention.

Former Kenyan prime minister Odinga said on X he met with Kiir on Friday and was encouraged with a possibility of the conflict being resolved. Western countries, including the United States, Britain and Germany have closed embassies or cut back operations in South Sudan. Ruto said he had consulted Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who sent troops this month to South Sudan at the government's request to help secure the capital, and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, which has hosted South Sudan peace talks in the past. Political analysts say Kiir has been attempting to shore up his position by arresting some of Machar's most senior allies, inviting in the Ugandan army and naming adviser Benjamin Bol Mel as second vice president. "The pretence of Riek Machar's control over the White Army is a useful distraction for Juba's actual political crisis—collapsing oil revenues and Salva Kiir's contentious plan to install Bol Mel as his successor," Justin Lynch, managing director of Conflict Insights Group, said. Reporting by Hereward Holland; Additional reporting by Michelle Nichols in New York; Editing by Ammu Kannampilly, Alex Richardson, Timothy Heritage, Ros Russell and Andrew Heavens

Know about United State's Pituffik Space Base in Greenland

GNS News Agency, March 31

Nuuk: The remote Pituffik Space Base in northwestern Greenland, which Vice President JD Vance is visiting on Friday, is the US Department of Defence's northernmost installation. The base was built following a 1951 defence agreement between Denmark and the United States. It supports missile warning, missile defence and space surveillance operations for the US and NATO.

The Pituffik base is located on the northwestern coast of Greenland, about 1,200 km north of the the Arctic Circle and 1,524 km south of the North Pole. It is about 1,500 km north of Greenland's capital, Nuuk. It was known as the Thule Air Base until 2023, when it was renamed to recognise Greenlandic cultural heritage and reflect its role in the relatively new US Space Force. The base is locked in by ice for nine months of the year, but its airfield remains open all



year round. It is in constant darkness from November to February and constant daylight from May to August. It is operated by the 821st Space Base Group and is also home to the world's northernmost deepwater sea port. The nearest town is Qaanaag, around 120 km to the northwest

The judiciary's 'between a rock and hard place' moment

The facts in the Justice Yashwant Varma case are indeed disturbing. In an apparent accidental fire in an outhouse on the premises of his official bungalow in New Delhi (while he was not in town), the fire department seemed to have found several sacks of high value currency notes (?500), which had been burnt, some partially. Someone in the police/fire department recorded a video when the firemen were trying to douse the fire. The next evening, the Delhi police chief reported the incident to the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, where Justice Varma is a senior judge. This was then conveyed to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), who convened a meeting of the Collegium. A decision was taken to repatriate Justice Varma back to his parent court, the High Court of Allahabad. Justice Varma's response was also sought where he denied that any money had been stored in that room and even suggested that it might be a conspiracy against him.

However, when the news of the incident spread, it caused such a public furore that the CJI convened other meetings of the Collegium and decided to institute an inhouse inquiry conducted by a three-judge committee which included two Chief Justices of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and Haryana, and a lady judge from the Karnataka High Court. The CJI also sought the call records of Justice Varma as well as those of his staff for the last six months. The CJI decided to release all the information related to the incident in the public domain, which included the video of the currency notes being found. These steps were indeed a case of welcome transparency. The CJI thereafter advised the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court not to assign any judicial work to Justice Varma till such time as the inquiry is completed. Though Justice Varma's explanation does not appear to be very credible, one should still await the findings of the inquiry committee. There is no doubt that the report of the committee will shed light on what really happened.

A triggering of the government

The public furore that erupted has enabled the government to fish in the troubled waters of the judiciary, and the government is now using this incident to try and retake

Congress trying to make a comeback in the state but might end up helping BJP

Congress party workers in Odisha fought a pitched battle with the police on Thursday as they tried to picket the Odisha legislative assembly, alleging rise in crimes against women and the suspension of the party's 14 MLAs from the assembly. The Congress party's protest rallies marked a dramatic escalation of its campaign against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state.

Police baton-charged the protesters, lobbed tear gas shells and used water cannon to disperse Congress workers as they broke barricades to march towards the assembly. The Congress workers, in turn, pelted stones and hurled chairs along the Mahatma Gandhi Marg leading to the assembly, injuring two police personnel, and attempted to set a police van on fire

The suspensions of the MLAs, announced by speaker Surama Padhy, came as a response to Congress MLAs repeatedly disrupting house proceedings. The party has seized on the emotive issue of women's safety, citing chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi's own admission in the assembly that over 36,000 women and 8,400 children have gone missing in the state. Their persistence ended in chaos with a Congress MLA climbing the Speaker's podium as scuffles erupted with BJP legislators. The party's state president, Bhakta Charan Das, condemned the suspension of all 14 Congress MLAs calling it as an assault on democratic norms and government's authoritarianism. The twin spectacle of picketing and suspension of MLAs has thrust Congress into the spotlight, signaling a calculated attempt to corner the opposition space in Odisha — a state where it has long struggled to regain political relevance. In recent months, the Congress has noticeably ramped up its political activities in Odisha, aiming to reclaim the opposition space in a state long dominated by the Biju Janata Dal and the BJP.After years of political marginalisation, the Congress has adopted an aggressive posture in Odisha. Following a dismal performance in the 2019 Assembly elections when it won just nine seats and a meager 16.12% vote share and an uptick in 2024 Assembly elections (14 seats but vote share declining to 13.4 %), the party is now mounting a comprehensive offensive. "We would attack the government in multiple dimensions - starting from street protests to symbolic campaigns inside the Assembly." said Das.Political analyst Satya Prakash Dash said the Congress's strategy hinges on mining public discontent with the BJP-led government. "By highlighting governance failures, corruption, and social justice issues, particularly in tribal-dominated regions like Koraput and Nabarangpur, Congress is attempting to rebuild its political credibility," he said. Though it has just 14 MLAs in the 147-member Assembly, Congress has stepped into the political vacuum as it senses an opportunity in the state's politics after Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) shock defeat last year. After losing the assembly polls, BJD seems to have adopted a surprisingly low profile and, despite being the principal opposition party with 51 MLAs, its activities have been limited to sporadic statements and symbolic gestures, such as complaining to the Election Commission over alleged voting discrepancies in the 2024 polls. With party president Naveen Patnaik avoiding the aggressive opposition role expected of a leader with his stature, Congress has chosen to adopt confrontational tactics — a stark contrast to the BJD's passivity. However, BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra dismissed the notion of BJD being passive as the primary opposition party. "Naveen Patnaik has been focusing on party unity and preparing for an effective opposition role. The party's decision to raise concerns with the Election Commission about the 2024 election data indicates its intent to remain relevant and challenge the BJP's narrative," he said. Political analysts, however, have raised a critical question: Will the Congress party's seeming resurgence be more beneficial to the BJP than being detrimental? The arithmetic of electoral politics suggests a nuanced scenario. In the 2024 parliamentary and assembly elections, the BJP won 78 Assembly seats and 20 out of 21 Lok Sabha seats. The BJD, after 24 years of uninterrupted power under Patnaik, was reduced to the opposition benches with 51 seats. The Congress's aggressive positioning could fragment the anti-BJP vote. Historical data shows that in 2019 and 2024, the BJD and BJP collectively secured over 80% of the vote share, leaving Congress with just about 15% votes. If Congress manages to double its vote share to 30%. it might erode the BJD's support base without significantly challenging the BJP's core vote bank of 40%. The Congress's attempt to reclaim opposition space might mirror its experiences in states like Gujarat, where a fragmented

opposition inadvertently strengthened the BJP.

control of the power of appointing judges. To this end, the Vice-President of India (and the Chairman of the Raiya Sabha) has invited political leaders from the government and the Opposition to discuss why the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, which was struck down by the Supreme Court of India as violative of the basic structure of the Constitution, should not be brought back. The NJAC Act essentially formed an appointment committee comprising the CJI, two senior judges of the Court, the Union Law Minister and two eminent persons to be nominated by a committee comprising the CJI, the Prime Minister of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. It also placed the secretariat of this commission with the Law Ministry. Seven judges of the Court held the view that this would provide substantial scope to the government to interfere with judicial appointments and that would erode the independence of the judiciary, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Thus, despite the NJAC Act having been brought by way of a constitutional amendment, it was declared invalid by the Court.

Government's game planIn the recent past, the Narendra Modi government has seriously interfered with the appointment of judges despite the law being that the power of selection is with the Collegium of the Supreme Court and that the government can only return the name of the judges selected by the Collegium once to the Collegium if it is dissatisfied. Thereafter, if the Collegium reiterates its choice, the government is left with no option but to notify the appointment. However, in recent years, the Modi government has stymied the selection of independent judges by the Collegium, by sitting on recommendations, sometimes for years, without any response, and without notifying the appointments. Even when it is forced to respond and it returns the names with objections, and thereafter, even after it is unanimously reiterated by the Collegium, it has still not notified the appointments of many judges who are considered 'inconvenient' to the government. At the same time it is quick to notify the appointments of those judges that the government likes. During these years, on several occasions, the Collegium appears to have bent backwards to appease the government by selecting some

judges who are favoured by the government in order to get some of those that it has recommended appointed. This has led to the appointment of many judges who are either committed to the government's Hindutva ideology or who are weak and unable to resist the diktats and wishes of the government. As a result of this, the independence of the judiciary has been substantially eroded in recent years.

Now, using the Justice Varma case, the government is seeking even greater control and say in the matter of appointments of judges. If the government succeeds in this attempt, it will no doubt erode the independence of the judiciary — already in a precarious state — even further. This government has been trampling on the fundamental rights of people, rampantly misusing the enforcement agencies and bulldozing the rule of law by using bulldozers. In these circumstances, it is essential for public opinion and the Opposition to see through the government's game plan and resist such an attempt. There is no doubt that the collegium system of the appointment of judges is far from perfect and that its lack of transparency and any proper criteria for selecting judges have led to much nepotism and improper appointments through the Collegium as well. However, the solution is not greater government control. The problem with the Collegium is that it comprises sitting judges who are very busy with their judicial work and have little time to devote to this task.

Appointment of judges, issue of corruptionEvery year, hundred judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court are to be selected. In any proper selection process, at least a 1,000 candidates have to be examined for their relative merits and demerits. For this, the right criteria and method to judge people on those criteria should be devised. Unfortunately this has not been done. The solution is to have a full-time judicial appointments commission, comprising retired judges and other eminent public men, who are totally independent of the government, and with a secretariat under their control which would select judges in a transparent manner. This would be a much better solution to address the problem of the appointment of judges — and what the Campaign for Judicial Accountability & Judicial Reforms



has been advocating for a long time. However, the particular problem highlighted by the Justice Varma case is the problem of corruption in the Indian judiciary, which also needs a solution. The Constitution only provided for impeachment as a method. But this method has not been found to be practical or desirable because it starts with the signatures of 100 Members of Parliament to begin with, and ends with a vote in both Houses of Parliament.

Both are political processes, which often get politicised by political parties. This is why no judge has ever been successfully impeached in the history of the country, despite public knowledge that there is much corruption in the higher judiciary. What we need is a high-powered and full-time judicial complaints commission comprising five men/women who are independent of the government as well the judiciary. This complaints commission can receive complaints against judges of the higher judiciary from people. If they feel that there is a prima facie case, they can have the matter investigated or hold the trial of the judge through another committee, much like the judges inquiry committee. However, the commission should decide what needs to be done with that judge, and their decision should be final, subject to judicial review only in exceptional circumstances. These matters should not go to Parliament at all. This would address the problem of judicial misconduct and corruption to a substantial degree. Prashant Bhushan is a Public Interest Lawyer practising before the Supreme Court of India

The flawed push for a third language

Evidence-based policymaking relies on data, research, and statistical analysis — not ideology, untested assumptions or political convenience. It ensures that policies address real needs, maximise effectiveness, and avoid unnecessary burdens. By this standard, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's push for a third language in schools fails to meet the mark.

What do surveys say?

Any discussion on teaching a third language must begin with an honest evaluation of India's school system and its capacity to teach subjects effectively. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a global test which evaluates reading, math, and science skills of 15year-olds, conducted every three years by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, highlights India's struggle. In 2009, India ranked 73 out of the 74 participating countries, ahead of only Kyrgyzstan. Since then, India has withdrawn from PISA. In contrast, countries like Singapore, China, South Korea, Estonia and Finland have consistently ranked near the top, reflecting the strength of their school education systems. Domestic surveys paint an equally dismal picture. The National Achievement Survey (NAS), conducted every three years since 2001, assesses learning outcomes in Classes 3, 5, 8, and 10. NAS 2017 found that only 48% of Class 8 students could read a simple paragraph in their regional language or Hindi; only 47% could write an essay or letter; and just 42% had a good grasp of grammar. NAS 2021 showed slight improvements of 56%, 49%, and 44%, respectively. NAS 2018 found that English proficiency, tested only at the Class 10 level, was equally poor. Notably, NAS does not assess third-language proficiency, raising concerns about policymakers' reluctance

The Annual State of Education Report (ASER), conducted by the NGO Pratham, assesses school enrolment and learning outcomes in rural India. ASER 2018 found that 27% of Class 8 students couldn't read even a Class 2-level text properly in their regional language or Hindi. This worsened to 30.4% in 2022. In 2016, the percentage of Class 8 students who could not read even simple sentences in English was 73.8%; in 2022, it was still a staggering 53.3%. Like NAS, ASER does not evaluate third-language proficiency. Many of India's school students are struggling with even their mother tongue and barely managing English, which raises the question: isn't it better to teach two languages well rather than three poorly? The absence of credible data on third-language proficiency shields the policy from scrutiny. Even NEP 2020 fails to address this data gap. Therefore, wouldn't it be wiser to allocate scarce resources toward strengthening core subjects like math and science, and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI)? China is already piloting AI in 184 schools, including for six-year-olds. Estonia, Canada, South Korea, and the U.K. are integrating AI into secondary education.

What does research say?

NEP 2020's trilingual policy oversimplifies a complex issue, offering a single-sentence endorsement without references to global best practices. The Cambridge Handbook of Third Language Acquisition highlights that cognitive benefits occur when learners are challenged but not overwhelmed. Learning a third language (L3) increases cognitive load. If students are still struggling with their first (L1) and second (L2) languages, learning L3 may exceed their cognitive capacity, causing mental fatigue and diminished learning efficiency. It also reduces practice time for L1 and L2, risking their attrition, with L2 being more vulnerable. Cross-linguistic interference can cause pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary mix-ups. Achieving equal fluency in three languages is rare; one typically dominates while the others weaken. Research also shows that language similarity impacts learning ease. Speakers of Marathi, Punjabi, and Odia (Indo-Aryan languages family) experience facilitative transfer when learning Hindi as L3 due to shared grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics. In contrast, Tamil (Dravidian), Santali (Austro-Asiatic), and Mizo (Sino-Tibetan) speakers face non-facilitative transfer, making L3 acquisition much harder and creating an asymmetric learning burden.NEP 2020's rigid trilingual mandate overlooks these complexities.Implementation challenges

While students can study multiple languages privately, it's not cost-effective to fund the teaching of more than two languages in public schools. Adding a third language requires significant investments in teacher recruitment, training, textbooks, and technology — a major challenge for rural schools and budget-constrained States.NEP 2020 claims that no language will be forced on States, and students are free to choose any three languages, provided that at least two are native to India. However, this "choice" is illusory. Imagine a school in Tamil Nadu where 30% of students want to learn Telugu, 20% Malayalam, 20% Kannada, 10%

Hindi, and 10% Sanskrit as their third language. Such var-



ied preferences make it impractical to hire enough qualified teachers for each language. There is a hidden push here for Hindi or Sanskrit in non-Hindi-speaking States because cost and supply constraints will compel schools to offer one or both as the third language.NEP 2020's three-language policy ignores these real-world challenges. A policy stuck in the past

NEP 2020 vaguely mentions using technology for language learning but overlooks the game-changing potential of Al-powered translation tools. They can instantly translate text, images, and audio across languages, and also convert text in any language to audio in another language and vice versa, reducing the necessity for multilingual education in its current form. While learning one's mother tongue or regional language and English are essential for foundational literacy and should be taught using traditional classroom methods enhanced by modern digital tools, the third language doesn't require the same proficiency or classroom instruction. Instead, why not leverage Al to let students learn additional languages independently, based on their needs and at their own pace? This approach would be cost-effective and flexible.

The NEP 2020's approach to language learning clashes with the aspirations of parents and students. It treats languages as cultural pursuits, ignoring their practical value in the job market. Additionally, the policy reveals its ideological bias by dedicating more discussion to Sanskrit — a language with little practical use and limited career opportunities — than English. At a time when nations across Europe, Asia and Latin America, including Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and Brazil, are actively promoting English education, the NEP 2020 fails to acknowledge its crucial role in higher education, science and technology, and global job markets. Beyond English, languages like French, German, Spanish, and Mandarin offer clear career advantages worldwide. Hindi and Sanskrit as third languages do not. By limiting foreign language options to just one (invariably English), NEP 2020 undermines the only real benefit of learning a third language — better job prospects.Lessons from SingaporeIn From Third World to First, Lee Kuan Yew, himself of Chinese origin, recounts how he resisted intense pressure from Singapore's Chinese majority (74.3% of population) to declare Mandarin as the sole national language. Recognising that this would alienate Malays (13.5%), Tamils (9%) and other minorities, and to ensure fairness, Lee chose English — a colonial legacy but a neutral language — as Singapore's lingua franca. Singapore adopted a bilingual education system, with students learning English as their first language and their mother tongue (Mandarin, Malay, or Tamil) as the second. Parents supported English-medium education for better career prospects, while the mother tongue reinforced cultural identity. This policy fostered social cohesion, prevented ethnic tensions, and ensured cultural preservation. English also drove Singapore's economic rise, transforming it into a global hub for multinational corporations, finance, and innovation, Singapore's school education system is among the best in the world — in PISA rankings, it was 1 in 2015, 2 in 2018, and 1 again in 2022.

Why Hindi won't work as a unifierThe 2011 Census states that 43.63% of Indians speak Hindi. However, noted scholar G.N. Devy, in India: A Linguistic Civilization, reveals this figure is inflated by including 53 other languages as "dialects" of Hindi. Several of these languages like Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Brajbhasha, Magadhi, Chattisgarhi, and Rajasthani, are completely independent languages, much older than Hindi. Excluding these, true Hindi speakers account for just 25% of the population. Moreover, the 2011 Census highlights that 63.46% of Indians have never left their birthplace, 85.27% remain within their native district, and 95.28% never migrated out of their home State. With iob opportunities concentrated in non-Hindi speaking States in the south and west and New Delhi, inter-State migrations are mostly away from the Hindi heartland. When only 25% of Indians speak Hindi and 95% of Indians remain within their home States and use only their languages, the push for Hindi as a national lingua franca, whether direct or indirect, is completely misguided.

Can India have its Adolescence? Deepanjana Pal writes on films that fill a void



In a far corner of the art gallery Project 88, there hangs a velvet curtain with the Urdu word Dum (Breath) etched on it in gold thread. A few steps away lies a white body bag, embroidered with colourful peacocks. In the belly of the gallery is a large screen. When it lights up to play artist Pallavi Paul's film, How Love Moves, the screen becomes a portal that takes the viewer to the Delhi Gate cemetery Two narrators share their stories with the viewer, over the course of 63 minutes. One is a migrant who came to India in search of a new life and found love, only to end up witnessing her husband's brutal murder during the Delhi riots of 2020. The other is a talkative gravedigger named Shamim Khan, who helped bury about 4,000 bodies amid the devastating first two waves of Covid-19 and the riots that ravaged the capital in February 2020. These two voices keep alive the memory of the many who have been anonymised and turned into data points by death and trauma. "Those who understand death know the dead are not worthless," Khan says, at one point. "They're Allah's creations and must be returned to Him with respect."

Paul, 37, is a gifted interviewer. Her subjects seem aware of the camera but not performing for it. There are hauntingly beautiful moments shot by cinematographer Ashok Meena, which offer an intimate and uncliched view of Delhi as a city of mist, shadows and earth tones. Meena's cinematic gaze highlights the grace in the people and places it records, rather than the scars. The film makes space for ugliness too, through Paul's use of viral mobile clips that were circulated during the lockdown, and snippets from TV news coverage of the riots. How Love Moves is a moving and powerful film about our recent past, and one that is all the more impactful because we, as a society, seem intent on pretending the pandemic and its effects are behind us. Our almost frenzied need to forget runs counter to what Paul has done: remember and feel for that past.

If you're in Mumbai, brave the dug-up streets and unforgiving traffic to see her film. Since it is part of Paul's solo exhibition at Project 88 (on until April 26), it is freely available to anyone who can journey to Colaba. In a weird way, this technically makes How Love Moves more accessible than most documentaries in India. In practical terms, of course, it makes the film less approachable to many who feel uncomfortable with the white-box cocoon of contemporary art. Perhaps Paul will be able to make a conventional documentary film someday, though anyone who knows what that entails in India would balk at the idea.

Last week, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap was venting about just this, on Instagram, after watching the masterpiece that is Adolescence, created by Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham. It isn't surprising that Kashyap was triggered by Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos's gushing comments about the miniseries on social media. The coffee shops of Bandra and Versova are haunted by the echoes of disgruntled writers, directors and technicians who blame interfering producers for mangling their work out of shape."It frustrates me. How do we ever create something so powerful and honest with a bunch of most dishonest and morally corrupt @netflix.in backed so strongly by the boss in LA," Kashyap wrote. Netflix has admittedly produced little to match Adolescence in years (though it has thankfully at least continued to acquire assets such as this series and last year's Baby Reindeer).

Incidentally, if you're feeling a bit of post-Adolescence emptiness, find Avinash Arun and Ishani Banerjee's School of Lies, which is one of the most poignant portraits of boyhood in Indian entertainment. The 2023 series is streaming on JioHotstar. Then watch Shuchi Talati's Girls Will Be Girls (2024; streaming on Amazon Prime), which won the prestigious Independent Spirit John Cassavetes Award last month. Against all odds, somehow, there are storytellers who manage to create work that is impactful, courageous and beautiful. There's one currently showing at an art gallery.

9 Ranga Reddy TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025

What is DNA fingerprinting? | Explained



Just like the government uses an Aadhaar number to uniquely identify an individual for social security purposes, a person's DNA fingerprint can be used for biological purposes. This is why DNA analysis is such a big deal. Today, it is most often (but not exclusively) used together with technologies like PCR, capillary electrophoresis, and fingerprinting.

What is DNA?

Each of an individual's cells — in one's skin, blood teeth, bone, etc. — contain 46 DNA molecules. One set of 23 is inherited via sperm from the father and the other 23 via the egg from the mother. Sperm and egg cells are exceptional because they have only one copy of the genome each, not two. These facts underpin the generation and use of DNA fingerprints to identify individuals and their relatives. The DNA is packed inside chromosomes. For example, chromosome no. 3 contains 6.5% of the total DNA in each cell. The chromosome 3 from the father contains DNA that is largely similar to that derived from the mother. The few parts that are different are called polymorphisms.DNA polymorphisms can be used to differentiate one person from another. They can also tell us whether a paternal chromosome no. 3 came from the father's mother or father, and likewise for a maternal chromosome no. 3. That is, polymorphisms make the tracing of ancestry possible. DNA profiles are typically generated using polymorphisms in parts of the DNA called short tandem repeats (STRs).

What are STRs?

DNA has two strands. Each strand is a sequence of four chemical bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T). The strands are anti-parallel and complementary. 'Anti-parallel' means the strands run in opposite directions. 'Complementary' means the As and Cs of one strand bond with Ts and Gs on the other. When a cell divides and needs to make a copy of its DNA, it pulls the strands apart and makes a new complementary strand for each one: As on one strand get Ts on the other and Cs get Gs. Thus, the daughter DNA has the same sequence of bases. In rare cases, the cell will make a mistake and insert the wrong base. This is called a mutation. In general, mutations occur less than once per billion base-pairs per generation. An STR is a short sequence of base-pairs on the DNA that is repeated some number of times, such as GATCGATCGATC (on the complementary strand,

this STR will have the sequence CTAGCTAGCTAGCTAG). STRs are often polymorphic. Unrelated individuals almost certainly have different numbers of repeat units in at least some STRs.

How do we make copies of DNA?

Scientists need to make many copies of the DNA present in particular STRs to make studying them easier. They use a laboratory procedure called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to make copies of a particular stretch of DNA (up to 5,000 base-pairs). Even if they have a very small amount of DNA to begin with, PCR can make millions of copies in a short span of time. First, scientists extract some genetic material from tissue that contains the DNA of interest. They heat it to about 95° C for 25 seconds to split the strands apart. Second, they introduce multiple molecules into the sample. The first is the primer, a short single-stranded piece of DNA that binds to a single strand: As and Ts on the primer bind with Ts and As in the strand and Cs and Gs with the Gs and Cs. The sequence of bases on the primer is configured so that it binds to the portion of interest on the DNA. The temperature in this phase is lowered to around 60° C.Next, another molecule called DNA polymerase enters the reaction. It holds the bound primer, like for grip, and synthesises the rest of it according to the complementary bases on the strand. To help, scientists add more bases into the sample. If a polymerase called Taq polymerase is used, the temperature is held at around 72° C. In these three steps, called one cycle, a new copy of the DNA segment is ready. If there is only one starting copy and each cycle operates with 100% efficiency, making a million copies of the segment will take about 50 minutes. The device that performs these steps is called a thermocycler

What is a DNA fingerprint?

New copies of DNA can be made to move through a capillary under the influence of an electric field. The smaller ones move faster. This technique is called capillary electrophoresis. Multiple STRs can simultaneously be sized in the same test. The sizes of the various paternal/maternal variants of the different STRs are compiled in a table. This table is unique to each individual and is called their DNA fingerprint (only monozygotic twins have the same DNA fingerprints). This fingerprint can be established using DNA from teeth, bones, blood (a drop is enough), spit, semen, skin cells, etc.DNA fingerprints can establish parent/child relationships and help identify individuals from their mortal remains at disaster sites. DNA from blood stains, sweat, and spit from cloth or soil, retrieved from crime scenes, can be used to identify suspects. Experts also use them to identify or exclude potential donors during organ donation.DNA is very stable. Scientists have extracted it almost intact from 65,000-year-old human remains preserved only by desiccation or cold. Many 'cold cases' have been solved by examining new profiles made from DNA extracted from crime scene materials in the archives. DNA fingerprints have also exonerated wrongly accused convicts.D.P.Kasbekar is a retired scientist. He is an INSA Honorary Scientist in the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and

TAVI, a minimally invasive procedure for treating severe heart valve diseases in high-risk patients



The aortic valve is a door that separates the heart from the aorta, the largest artery that carries blood to different organs of our body. As we grow older, the valve becomes dysfunctional. It becomes stiff and calcified (like a bony structure) that restricts its movementsSevere aortic valve disease, specifically stenosis (narrowing) or regurgitation (leaking), can lead to heart failure and other serious complications, requiring prompt diagnosis and treatmentSevere aortic valve disease, specifically stenosis (narrowing) or regurgitation (leaking), can lead to heart failure and other serious complications, requiring prompt diagnosis and treatment | Photo Credit: Special ArrangementThe most common causes of aortic stenosis are degenerative aortic valve disease, bicuspid aortic valve disease and rheumatic heart disease. As the survival of the population increases, we expect more patients are likely to develop this problem. The prevalence of aortic valve stenosis (AS) has been reported to be 0.4% in the general population and as high as 2.8% in people above the age of 75 years. It is also estimated that more than 10% of individual may have it after 80 years.

Most patients remain asymptomatic till the disease becomes severe. Symptoms can include breathlessness, chest pain, syncope (passing out) and fatigue. Some individuals develop the weakness of the left side of the heart due to this disease. In addition to clinical examination, echocardiograms play a pivotal role in diagnosing the problem where the pressure gradient between the heart and aorta increases above a mean of 40 mm Hg, which is called severe aortic stenosis. However, due to various factors like poor echo windows, improper techniques and associated weakness of the heart there could be potential delays in diagnosing the problem. This could be avoided if the test is appropriately done. In patients with severe weakness of the heart, the heart muscle cannot generate enough pressure

to identify the problem. This could be sorted out by performing special echocardiograms like the dobutamine stress echocardiogram. Once symptoms start to occur, the clinical deterioration can be rapid, with survival rates of only 15–50% at five years. Hence, the condition needs to be treated once the patient develops symptoms. Recent evidence recommends treatment of such patients with severe disease even if they are asymptomatic.

What are the treatment options?

Until a few years ago, the treatment for this condition surgical replacement of the valve through open-heart surgery.TAVI/TAVR are medical procedures that replace damaged or diseased aortic valve without open-heart surgery.TAVI/TAVR are medical procedures that replace damaged or diseased aortic valve without open-heart surgery. | Photo Credit: Special ArrangementIn 2002, Professor Alain Cribier performed the first percutaneous valve replacement procedure in France, where a new valve is implanted into the old, diseased valve via the arteries. This procedure is known as Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) or Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI). Since then, many studies have been conducted across all risk categories of patients with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis, which have clearly shown that TAVI is either superior to or non-inferior to Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR). TAVI is a minimally invasive procedure, and patients can often be discharged successfully within 2-3 days after the procedure."In younger patients, Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR) remains the treatment of choice. However, the ACC/AHA (American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association) guidelines suggest considering Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) through the leg arteries for patients aged 65 or older, or for those expected to have a life expectancy of less than 10 years. TAVI is recommended for patients over 75. A heart team, including patient input, should collaborate on procedure decisions. TAVI is recommended for patients over 75. A heart team, including patient input, should collaborate on procedure decisions. | Photo Credit: Special ArrangementThe ESC (European Society of Cardiology) recommends considering TAVI for patients older than 75. The option of a shared decision-making process, involving a heart team consisting of an interventional cardiologist, an imaging cardiologist, and a cardiac surgeon, with the patient at the centre, should always be followed when selecting the procedure. In this process, the patient's wishes and preferences should also be carefully considered.

Scientists develop method to expose cancer cells to immune system

New Delhi: An international research group has developed a new method to help the immune system recognise and attack cancer cells by leading them to expose themselves. Researchers led by Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) said cancer cells typically evade detection by displaying very few suspicious proteins that the immune system can identify and target, Xinhua news agency reported. In the study published in the journal Cancer Cell, the team, including from the US and Germany, disrupted protein production in cancer cells, forcing them to produce abnormal, recognisable proteins, which could trigger a strong immune response capable of destroying cancer cells. In mouse models, the approach has been proven effective in activating immune cells to target and destroy cancer cells, inhibiting tumour growth. Combining this method with existing immunotherapy has led to tumour

eradication in around 40 per cent of the mice, said Yardena

Samuels, who led the research. "An existing type of immunotherapy that was not at all effective against the kind of melanoma we tested suddenly became very effective when tested in mouse models after the translation process in the mice's cancer cells was disrupted," Samuels explained."This combined treatment managed to eradicate or greatly reduce the tumour in around 40 per cent of the mice," she added. Researchers believe that this breakthrough could improve cancer treatments, especially for patients with cancers that have few mutations. "Finding a new predictive measure for the effectiveness of immunotherapy will allow doctors to offer the treatment to patients who, until now, were not candidates." Samuels said. The team is now exploring how this technique can be applied to other types of cancer, including breast, pancreas, and colorectal cancers, expecting it to pave the way for more effective, broader

cancer therapies in the future.

Bengaluru's urban boom reshapes villages around it



Pointing to the high-rises under construction, 70-year-old Muniyamma recalled a starkly different Bagaluru, an urbanised village, off Ballari Road in Bengaluru North taluk. Fifteen years ago, it was a quiet expanse where only a handful of men and women toiled on fertile farmland. But in just over a decade, the village panchayat's landscape has morphed into an urban sprawl.Lured by what was then called a "good price" by real estate agents, Muniyamma's husband sold the small landholding he had for a pittance compared to land prices now. Muniyamma has embraced the inevitable, setting up a small tea stall to sustain her family. "The fields are gone, industries have taken over, and the village's population has surged beyond anything I could have imagined," she said.

The catalyst? — Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), established in 2008, at Devanahalli. "Once the airport came up industries followed, paving the way for real estate. The airport is barely 15 km from here, and we are absorbed into Bengaluru," she said. Like a cinematic timelapse capturing the shifting geography of a place, Muniyamma narrated the transformation of Bagaluru: "In the lands where farmers were ploughing to cultivate paddy, clusters of high-rise apartments are being constructed. The billboards have replaced tall trees, narrow roads are widened, and land rates are soaring and with this, the panchayat is absorbing people from outside. The population has increased from about 2,500 to 15,000," Muniyamma said in one breath. Integration of villages The tale of Bagaluru is not very different from the stories of 23 other villages around Bengaluru that the State government is planning to integrate with the city's municipal limits under the proposed Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, recently passed in the legislature but now sent back to the government by the Governor seeking clarifications.

These 24 villages remain villages only on paper and are, in fact, completely urbanised, with large tracts of land alienated from agriculture. They now have industries, tech parks, educational institutions, gated communities, and apartment complexes dotting their landscape. The influx of urban migration for work has brought with it a host of urban problems like traffic congestion, heavy loads of sewage and solid waste being generated among other issues. The rural and town municipal governance structures for these areas are not equipped to handle them. However, the rationale behind the proposal to include these villages in Bengaluru's civic limits also includes their revenue-generating potential, given the real-estate and development stagnation in the core areas of Bengaluru in the long run. The incomplete Dommasandra flyover in Sarjapur has become a bottleneck causing long traffic jams in Bengaluru.

This offers a sense of deia vu. as in 2008. Bengaluru's civic administration expanded from the erstwhile 225 sq.km. to 708 sq.km. by incorporating seven City Municipal Corporations and one Town Municipal Corporation apart from 110 villages, forming the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The GBG Bill, 2024, argues this experiment has been a failure and opts for multiple corporations to govern the city."A lot of Bengaluru's woes result from haphazard development in these erstwhile peripheral areas — engulfed rural and urban settlements, and large new developments put up by developers for thousands of new residents and offices in the middle of panchayat areas. And they continue to grow beyond BBMP today," said V. Ravichandar, member of the BBMP Restructuring Committee, which has recommended a municipalisation commission to deal with peripheral growth of the city.

"According to a study by the World Resources Institute, India, nearly 30% of growth in large cities is outside the statutory boundaries of municipal corporations. These involve multiple authorities and differing legal frameworks with varied infrastructure norms and limited interest in environmental concerns. It is necessary to proactively plan these outlying areas developing urban characteristics if we are to conserve ecologically sensitive areas such as wetlands, respect nature's contours and make for future liveable cities," he argued.

One of the key drivers of this change is the availability of empty plots of land for development, a resource that is severely stressed within the present city. In most Western cities, the downtown (core city) gets commercialised with workspaces and shopping hubs, even as residences are thrown to the suburbs. However, when the IT boom knocked on the doors of Bengaluru, space was premium in the core, pushing for these new workspaces that drive large-scale migration to this day, coming up in the suburbs - mainly due to the availability of land. However, this development was completely market-driven with the government regulation playing catch up, leading to haphazard development, encroachment of water bodies and storm water drains etc. What is unfolding now is no different.

Jigani town, on the Bannerghatta-Anekal road, has a thriving stone industry with dealers offering a wide variety of natural stones like granite, marble, and limestone, for construction. The villages now slated for official inclusion into the city offer a picture of contrasting realities — swanky tech parks housing IT giants, commercial shopping hubs and luxury villas and apartments on the one side, besides problem-ridden village pockets that house people who have sold their lands for a pittance. Many of them, in the same breath, talk of their idyllic past with nostalgia, even as they see a glimmer of hope of a better tomorrow with them joining Bengaluru. Right now, they are struggling to make ends meet.Jigani, an industrial town 28 km from the city's centre, in Anekal taluk, is run by a Town Municipal Council. Dotted with small and large-scale automobile engineering industries, packaging and granite industries providing employment to thousands of people, Jigani has seen a huge influx of urban migration of not just the labour force, but upper-middle-class sections as well.

One sees apartments and gated communities springing up everywhere. The town's population density has shot through the roof. The roads in the industrial area are in a bad condition everywhere. Krishnan Unni, a manager in an automobile parts manufacturing industry, said, "The area needs good roads, improved underground drainage system, uninterrupted power supply to homes, improved markets, vending zones, and public education infrastructure. Upscale housing units will go unsold in the absence of proper civic infrastructure." He hopes joining the bandwagon of Bengaluru will bring the desired change. Water being filled

Only a short distance away, Lakshman M. was grazing his sheep, inhabiting a different world. He said urbanisation had not brought any change in his life. Apart from some locals who work as domestic workers in the nearby villas, many are still unemployed, he said. "The industries employ outsiders for work despite them standing on the land the locals provided for meagre compensation. We can neither afford to buy land that costs about ?1.5 crore per acre nor rent a space to do business. We can only graze sheep to survive," he solemnly said. Twelve years ago, 75year-old Sardar, a longtime resident of Sathanur village in North Bengaluru, parted with his 3.5-acre land for ?3,80,000, a decision that haunts him to this day. What seemed like a fair deal at the time has become his big regret, as the land's value has soared beyond imagination, leaving him with nothing but memories of what once belonged to him.

An acre of converted land now costs ?1 crore. Although apartment complexes are yet to make their way into the village, people are constructing three-floor houses to generate revenue through rent. With a private university and an upscale school close by, the village is fast embracing development. The paying guest accommodations is a lucrative business, and so are eateries that cater to students. Sardar walking down memory lane says ragi and paddy cultivation has vanished in less than two decades but firmly says transformation is inevitable. In the villages planned for integration into Bengaluru, the farmers have either sold or have been selling lands for layouts, housing projects and industries. Some also say this is an opportunity to make money and invest in profitable businesses. Shivashankarappa, a former member of Bommasandra Town Municipal Council said, "We have sold the land for reasonable compensation for industries. The locals here have now engaged in business activities, an opportunity came along with the establishment of industries." But he laments that the infrastructure of the area is crumbling.

The land prices in areas like Attibele, Bommasandra, Chikkajala, and Sarjapur are even higher. The towering IT giants of Sarjapur and Bommasandra rise amidst sprawling tech parks, standing as symbols of rapid urbanization fueled by a booming real estate market and a thriving job sector. The economic ripple effect is evident — trendy pubs, upscale restaurants, and bustling eateries are springing up, eager to cater to the growing workforce and affluent residents of the area. In some pockets, the transformation is so profound that they mirror Bengaluru's Central Business District, pulsating with energy, commerce, and urban sophistication. In Attibele, although the layouts are carved and villas are built in places tucked away from the bustling commercial establishments, the silence lingers. Ashwith P., a resident in Attibele said:

"Till date, the population density is still low. In the gated communities of Chandapura, there are hardly 10 families. But these are luxury villas that offer quietude. But the rapid pace of development engulfing the area will soon overtake this as well," he said. Unlike the congested city centre, Attibele and Chandapura still offer vast spaces, paving the way for high-rise buildings. These towering structures will attract a larger influx of people, businesses, and corporate establishments, particularly IT firms seeking expansion beyond traditional tech hubs. Then the urban cacophony will surely take over, Ashwith said.

These quiet villages are now emerging as the next major hotspots for real estate and business. Today these urbanised villages are overwhelmed. Panchayats and town municipalities are grappling with key challenges such as fund mobilisation, traffic management, waste management, and underground drainage systems, among others. Will joining Bengaluru fix the problems, is the moot question. Though many are hopeful, there have been dissenting voices as well

A panchayat official in Sarjapur said the village panchayat is struggling to keep pace with rapid urbanisation. With the rise of apartments, layouts, and IT companies, the population has grown by leaps and bounds. As a result, the village must expand underground drainage, meet rising water demands, and manage the increasing generation of solid waste. The gram panchayat has limited avenues for revenue generation, leading to poor civic infrastructure.

This is not unique to Sarjapur. Several village panchayats and town municipalities face similar issues, with waste management becoming an enormous challenge. Shiyashankarappa, a former member of the Bommasandra Town Municipal Council, noted that due to poor infrastructure, waste is often dumped in vacant sites or stormwater drains. Bommasandra's rapid expansion left the municipality struggling to manage waste effectively. The local body lacks sufficient vehicles for waste collection and does not have a proper dumping site. They believe merging with Bengaluru is the only solution as it will provide them more funds, urban planning and engineering expertise they do not have and this would fix the infrastructure woes of these villages. More significantly, it will provide a more suitable urban governance structure for these areas. For instance, Karnataka State Police is presently considering adding several of these rural police stations to Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate, as the population density has increased and the nature of crimes in these police station limits has clearly changed, with increasing occurrences of urban crimes like robbery, chain and mobile snatchings, rowdy activities tied up with real estate dealings and cyber crimes among others.

Is GP better option?

However, some believe village panchayats are a better bet to handle these crises at the local level than get subsumed in Bengaluru. Sampath Ramanujam, a gram panchayat member from Seegehalli, pointed out that using the same argument BBMP was born subsuming 110 villages, 7 CMCs and 1 TMC. "These areas continue to suffer from neglect even today. The government has yet to provide even basic facilities like water and sewage networks nearly two decades after they joined Bengaluru. The BBMP administration is so far away from these areas that it is a herculean task to even catch their attention. Residents of these areas have been arguing about going back to local corporations, indicating this experiment has failed. Then integrating more villages may not be practical," he argued. He said despite some challenges, smaller panchayats can implement better plans. Seegehalli, with 14,000 residents and about 40 apartment complexes and layouts, benefits from its compact size and manageable governance. The panchayat has incentivised solar installations by providing a property tax rebate which has been effective. Besides regular revenue, they also mobilise funds through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Merging villages with the corporation could undermine their autonomy, forcing residents to travel farther to resolve civic issues. Panchayat offices, currently within walking distance, offer accessibility that would be lost, he said. As quibbles continue over the right way ahead, the march of Bengaluru seems unstoppable.

Income Tax Department issues notices to taxpayers over non deduction of TDS on rent of 50,000 or more per month



The Income Tax Department has issued notices to Taxpayers who have been paying a rent of ?50,000 or more per month and not deducted Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) while remitting the amount to landlord, a tax expert said. Many taxpayers have received a notice from the Income Tax Department pertaining to the assessment years 2023-2024 and 2024-25 stating that you made a claim of House Rent Allowance (HRA) for specific years and not deducted TDS on that. The notice also states, If you want to file an updated return by reducing your claim, this is the right time to do it, Abhishek Murali, President, All India Tax Payers' Association said. These notices have been issued to sev-

eral taxpayers across the country, he said. "Where you are a tenant of a particular house property and you are paying a rent of ?50,000 or more, the Income Tax Act mandates that as a tenant you need to deduct TDS of 2% (effective from October 2024 earlier it was 5%) on the rent you are paying to the landlord. So the onus to deduct the TDS is on the tenant. The tenant has to deduct the TDS and remit it to the Income Tax Department and pay the balance to the landlord," Mr. Abhishek said. "If the tenant has failed to do so, the person is considered as an assessee in default. Then you are subject to a levy of certain interest, fines and penalties by the Income Tax Department which may vary from 1-1.5% per month depending on the individual cases and time of the default," he said.

"There is one exemption to this. If the landlord has filed is Income Tax return and shown the rental income and if has paid the taxes duly calculated on the same and if you are able to furnish the information to the assessing officer, you will not be considered as assessee in default and need not pay any interest or penalty," Mr. Abhishek said. "However, some landlords may not be comfortable sharing certain confidential/private documents. Therefore, it is advisable that all assessees properly deduct and remit the TDS in a timely manner to comply with the law and to avoid being an assessee in default," he said.

Delhi Budget resurrects some questions on federalism



That the Aam Admi Party's (AAP) electoral success before 2025 was always disproportionately larger than its ideological core was a fact well established by election statistics. AAP's assembly election vote share was always significantly larger than its performance in national elections, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being the primary beneficiary at the AAP's cost in the latter. The 2025 assembly election results saw an end to this split ticket voting pattern in favour of the AAP and led to a comprehensive BJP victory. What exactly led to this result? HT's analysis of electoral data — where we classified constituencies by class — shows that AAP mostly lost its support among the not-so-poor voters. Was this all that explains the recent political change in Delhi?

Latest budget numbers for the government of Delhi raise another interesting question vis-à-vis this issue. According to the Delhi Budget which was presented on March 25, the outgoing AAP government ended up in the worst possible fiscal situation a government can have in an election year. It underspent its budgeted total expenditure target of ?76,000 crore by ?6,500 crore despite getting ?450 crore extra in the 250 750 are re-

Did its inability to spend what it intended to hurt its elecbut difficult to answer. What is easier to answer is the guestion about what could have led to the AAP government not being able to meet its spending targets. Two of the biggest AAP leaders, Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, spent a lot of their time in jail in 2024. Even after they were given bail, they did not become a part of the government and put their eggs in the campaign rather than the governance basket. The government, meanwhile, became more and more bogged down in a feud with the Lieutenant Governor, the central government's nominee, who thanks to Delhi not being a full-fledged state enjoys much more executive power than governors in other states. Did the AAP get blindsided to the potential damage this tug-of-war was doing to its governance and politics? These questions are not of importance and significance just from a historical interest perspective about a political party losing power in a Union Territory. There are at least three issues here which merit a larger extrapolation in India's current day polity.

First and foremost is the issue of what can be described

as an issue of lack of constitutional morality in the central government's conduct. The BJP government brought a law and got it passed from the parliament to usurp significant powers from the (AAP) government of Delhi after the latter won a prolonged battle in the Supreme Court. Did this turning of tables put a significant squeeze on the governing abilities of the AAP government? It's is difficult to argue that it would not have. Even in states where state governments still have justified executive control, governors have made it a habit to delay signing bills. Is this not a perversion of federalism and democracy itself in the country?

The second is a more vexed issue vis-à-vis fiscal federalism. A lot of central government funding to states is now from the centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) route. While this trend started before Narendra Modi came to power, it has continued to gain momentum, not just in terms of funds but also its political weaponization. More and more CSS money now comes with strict conditionalities not just in terms of scheme design but also political attribution in favour of the Prime Minister. Where does this leave state governments which are ruled by parties opposed to the BJP? Many of them have held back on implementing these schemes, thereby either losing money from the Centre or taking additional fiscal commitments. Tamil Nadu announcing that it will not take central funds for school education to protest against the three-language formula is the latest example.

The third question follows from the first two. The Centre squeezing states is not something which is happening for the first time in the country. Things were not very different when the Congress enjoyed political dominance at the national level and harassed governments ruled by its opponents in states. In fact, on things such as dismissal of state governments, things are not as bad today as they were earlier. Part of this improvement is a result of the judiciary putting curbs on their misuse. The more pertinent question is what can the opposition do about these things? Have they gone beyond stage-managed events in the realm of mass politics? What share of AAP's campaign in Delhi was devoted to a principled defence of federalism? Most of it was focused on trying to convince voters that the BJP would discontinue AAP's welfare schemes. Has politics around federalism become a politics of tactical convenience where opposition parties agree with each other on certain things (such as more resources from the central government) but not on others (such as the north versus south issues). Is such opportunism blunting the ideological traction of this issue among the masses? Is grass-root political traction for political parties now more delinked from ideological issues such as the state of federalism and only contingent on identity and welfare-based issues? Is politics with the kind of money-power, which India has, even compatible with issues which invoke constitutional values anymore?To hope that one can find traction for the first two questions without honestly engaging with the third is, in many ways, politically delusional. Roshan Kishore, HT's Data and Political Economy Editor, writes a weekly column on the state of the country's economy and its political fallout, and vice-

US reciprocal tariffs to affect select sectors: NITI Aayog

The US plan to impose reciprocal tariffs may have limited impact on India as it would select sectors only and could even create new opportunities for Indian exporters, NITI Aayog Programme Director Pravakar Sahoo said on Friday. India is well-positioned compared to Mexico, China, and Canada, which together account for 50 per cent of America's total imports, he said.

"We are analysing the data at a highly disaggregated level... These are preliminary findings, but I can assure you that we are not going to lose out. These reciprocal tariffs will affect only a few specific sectors and, in fact, could create opportunities to expand our exports," Sahoo said at the release of the second edition of NITI Aayog's quarterly Trade Watch.Meanwhile, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani pointed out that after the US imposed tariffs in 2018, China's share of US imports declined. He stated that such tariffs have historically led to increased export opportunities, benefiting five countries in 2018—Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Mexico, and India.

The US has imposed a 25 per cent import duty on steel and aluminium products from March 12. It has also announced a sweeping 25 per cent tariff on completely built vehicles (CBUs) and auto parts, set to take effect on 3 April.US President Donald Trump has declared plans to introduce reciprocal tariffs in April on key trading partners, including India. He has repeatedly argued that India imposes high tariffs on US goods. The US has already imposed similar duties on Chinese imports.A US delegation, led by Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, is currently in India for negotiations on a proposed bilateral trade agreement. The talks are expected to conclude on Saturday.India and the US are aiming to



India is well-positioned compared to Mexico, China, and Canada, which together account for 50 per cent of America's total imports, said NITI Aayog Programme Director Pravakar Sahoo

finalise the first phase of the agreement by autumn 2025 (September-October). Both nations have also set a target to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, up from the current level of over \$190 billion.

Current account deficit widens to \$11.5 billion in October-December quarter: RBI



GNS News Agency, March 31

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to \$11.5 billion, or 1.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), in October-December 2024 quarter led by an increase in merchandise trade deficit, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.In the October-December 2023 quarter, the current account deficit stood at \$10.4 billion, or 1.1 per cent of GDP.During the April-December 2024 period, the current account deficit widened to \$37 billion, or 1.3 per cent of GDP, from \$30.6 billion (1.1 per cent of GDP) in the same period of 2023. The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a

key indicator of the country's external sector. In Q3 FY2025, merchandise trade deficit increased to \$79.2 billion from \$71.6 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal.

Net services receipts increased to \$51.2 billion in the third quarter of the current fiscal, compared to \$45 billion a year ago. Services exports have risen on a year-on-year basis across major categories such as business services. computer services, transportation services and travel services. During the reporting quarter, personal transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to \$35.1 billion, as against \$30.6 billion in Q3 FY2024. In the financial account, foreign direct investment recorded a net outflow of \$2.8 billion in Q3 FY2025 as against an inflow of \$4 billion in the corresponding period of 2023-24, the RBI data showed. Foreign portfolio investment recorded a net outflow of \$11.4 billion as against an inflow of \$12 billion in Q3 FY2024. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India amounted to \$4.3 billion in the reporting quarter, as against an outflow of \$2.7 billion in the corresponding period a year ago. Non-resident deposits (NRI deposits) recorded a net inflow of \$3.1 billion, lower than \$3.9 billion a year ago. On a balance of payments (BoP) basis, there was a depletion of \$37.7 billion to the foreign exchange reserves in Q3 FY 2024-25, as against an accretion of \$6 billion in Q3 2023-24.

With round 2 deadline nearing, PM Internship Scheme candidates attend open house to clear queries



Technical, policy, and process-related queries for the PM Internship Scheme were addressed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as 700 attendees participated in the third 'Candidate Open House for the PM Internship Scheme' it organised on Thursday, with the deadline for applying in the second round of the scheme nearing on March 31. Officials guided candidates on how to utilise the portal's features to select opportunities that align with their educational background, while also exploring new areas and diverse locations

The weekly open house session, the third in the series, was attended by 684 participants, including officials from the ministry, three panelists who are currently interning under the scheme, and Don Lewis, who leads skill development and education at Mahindra & Mahindra's farm division. The second round of the scheme, currently in its pilot stage, began in January, with around 1.18 lakh internship opportunities up for grabs, spread across 735 districts. "More than 1,765 questions submitted through an online link were addressed live by members of the PMIS team. The queries mainly revolved around selection criteria, eligibility requirements, and sector-specific opportunities within the scheme. Questions raised through the chat box were also answered promptly during the session," a press release by the ministry on Friday said.

The weekly session, held to "serve as a vital touchpoint for aspirants navigating the application process", also included three current interns under the scheme. "Their stories highlighted the power of opportunity, proving that language, location, and background are no barriers to pursuing one's dreams," the release said. For instance, Ankit Kumar, who only spoke Haryanvi, took up an internship as a painter with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd in Maharashtra's Nashik.

"He openly discussed the challenges he faced initially, particularly as he only spoke Haryanvi, but appreciated the support he received from his mentors and supervisors, who made him feel welcome. (He) also highlighted the valuable experiences he gained during the internship, from handson learning on the shop floor and in-depth familiarisation with cars he had previously only heard about," according to the release. Another intern, Shweta Joshi, who relocated

from Madhya Pradesh is currently interning with Tech Mahindra as an associate software intern, the release said, adding that she is learning new tools including SQL, AWS CloudWatch, and analytics. The prospective candidates also raised other queries like a request to relax the age limit from 24 to 25 years, enquired about employment prospects after the internship, and highlighted few openings in the information technology sector, The Indian Express reported on Thursday. Lewis, who was the industry expert on the panel, highlighted how an internship in a top company can significantly enhance the employment prospects of a candidate. "He also advised the candidates to be proactive during the selection process and encouraged them to keep visiting the portal for regular updates," the release said.

During the session, an attendee asked whether the current cap of three applications per candidate is permanent or subject to change. In response, an official associated with the implementation of the scheme said, "For this round of the pilot phase of the scheme, you can apply for 3 internship opportunities. For subsequent rounds, the appropriate information will be conveyed to you in due course." Attendees from remote regions also participated in the session, and requested to create more awareness on the scheme. "The people of Gurez and Tangdar (Jammu & Kashmir) are completely unaware of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme. Despite its potential benefits, there is little to no awareness about this opportunity in these regions," an attendee said. The PM Internship Scheme was announced as part of the Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling announced in the Budget for 2024-25. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 4,500 will be provided per month by the Government of India to selected candidates through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with an additional Rs 500 offset to be provided by the company's CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds.

The government also provides a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 per annum for incidentals to cover miscellaneous expenses incurred by selected candidates during their internship.In the first round of the scheme that started in October last year, over 1.27 lakh internship opportunities were provided by companies in 745 districts across the country, as per official data shared with the Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance. Around 6.21 lakh applications were received from more than 1.8 lakh candidates. Over 82,000 internship offers were made to around 60,000 candidates. Out of this, over 28,000 candidates accepted offers to join the internship but only around 8,700 candidates ended up joining. The top five companies that have offered internship opportunities under the first pilot round of the scheme are: Jubilant Foodworks Limited (14,263 internship opportunities), Maruti Suzuki India Limited (12,444), ONGC Limited (6,020), Reliance Industries Limited (5,000), and Eicher Motors Limited (4,260). As per the region-wise breakup of the 8,725 interns in the first round, Uttar Pradesh led with 1,234 interns, followed by 994 interns in Assam, 715 in Bihar, 693 in Madhya Pradesh and 467 in Odisha.

SEBI proposes to streamline expiry day for derivatives – How will it benefit investors?

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed to restrict the final settlement day or expiry day of equity derivatives products offered by stock exchanges to either on Tuesday or Thursday. The move is aimed at providing predictability and stability to market participants around expiry days. In a consultation paper, the market regulator proposed that expiries of all equity derivatives contracts of an exchange will be uniformly limited to one of either Tuesdays or Thursdays. "Every exchange will continue to be allowed one weekly benchmark index options contract, on their chosen day (Tuesday or Thursday), the SEBI said. Besides benchmark index options, all other equity derivatives contracts, such as all benchmark index futures, non-benchmark index futures / options, and all single stock futures / options will be offered with a minimum tenor of one month, and the expiry will be in the last week of every month on their chosen day, that is, last Tuesday or last Thursday of the month, the regulator suggested. The SEBI, however, said that exchanges will have to seek its prior approval for launching or modifying any contract expiry or

Equity derivatives contracts are generally launched with a minimum tenure of a month. An exception to this is options contracts on a single benchmark index per exchange, where weekly expiries are currently allowed. As per the regulations, the specifications of such weekly options contracts, including the choice of expiry day, has been left to the respective stock exchanges to decide. Presently, the two major exchanges in equity derivatives (i.e. BSE and NSE) have chosen Tuesday and Thursday, respectively, as the expiry days for derivatives contracts on single stocks and indices. Monthly single stocks derivatives contracts on one of the exchanges expire mid-month, whereas monthly index derivatives contracts on these constituents expire in the last week of the month for that exchange. Earlier

this month, NSE had announced to revise the expiry day of

index and stock derivatives contracts to Monday from Thursday, effective April 4. However, following the SEBI's consultation paper, the exchange has deferred the move. "Spacing out of expiry days through the week reduces concentration risk and provides an opportunity to exchanges to offer product differentiation to market participants," SEBI said in the draft proposal. At the same time, too many expiry days has the potential to revive expiry day hyperactivity which could jeopardize investor protection and market stability, it said.

How will the proposed norms benefit investors?

The formalisation of the final settlement days for equity derivatives contracts across exchanges will give predictability to market participants while avoiding any unwarranted shuffling of such days that may impact market integrity or orderly trading, SEBI said. Ideal spacing of expiry days while optimizing the number of such days will reduce concentration risk and provide room for product innovation and risk management. It will help in ensuring investor protection and market stability. "While expiry days are usually volatile days, the risk and uncertainty rises a notch on Mondays and Fridays due to the impact of the weekend. This is due to news flow over the weekend that can cause gapped openings, as well as time decay which causes options to lose value over the weekend," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd. These risks may be lessened if expiries are avoided on Mondays or Fridays as proposed in the SEBI's consultation paper, he said. "While we appreciate SEBI's efforts to enhance market predictability and stability the proposed move towards a uniform expiry day and primarily monthly expiries warrants careful consideration for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) like ours that actively utilize derivatives for alpha generation and hedging," said Puneet Sharma, CEO and Fund Manager at Whitespace Alpha, a multi-asset class asset management

Jessica Pegula stuns sensational Alexandra Eala in Miami Open semifinal



GNS News Agency, March 31

Miami: Jessica Pegula has ended the Cinderella run of teenage wildcard Alexandra Eala of the Philippines with a 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-3 victory in the Miami Open semifinal on Friday.From 5-2 down to start the match, Pegula turned around the opening set, crucially breaking serve at 5-3 after Eala double-faulted on set point, on the way to a 2-hour and 26-minute win.No. 140-ranked Eala, whose run this fortnight has included wins over Jelena Ostapenko and Madison Keys and No. 2 seed Iga Swiatek, became just the second wild card to defeat three or more Grand Slam champions in a single tour-level event, following Elina

Svitolina at Wimbledon 2023. The 19-year-old also became the first player from the Philippines to reach a tour-level semifinal after her huge upset win over Swiatek on Thursday.

Pegula will next face world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka. The American will now face the uphill challenge of winning only her third match against Sabalenka in eight previous attempts; her last win over the top seed came in Cancun during the 2023 WTA Finals. Earlier, Sabalenka punched a ticket to her first Miami Open final with a comprehensive 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 6 seed Jasmina Paolini. She has now won her last three meetings with the Italian, all without the loss of a set. The three-time major champion has reached her 12th career WTA 1000 final. I definitely say that this was one of the best matches in the season so far. I don't know. I was just so focused on myself, on the things I had to do today. It felt like everything was just, like, going smoothly my way. Yeah, super happy with the performance. I felt like I was in the zone," Sabalenka said post-match. In the last 20 years, Sabalenka, who lost to Mirra Andreeva in the Paribas Open final, is the sixth player to reach the final at Indian Wells and Miami in the same season after Kim Clijsters (2005), Maria Sharapova (2006, 2012, 2013), Victoria Azarenka (2016), Iga Swiatek (2022) and Elena Rybakina (2023), WTA reports.

There's more to Samay Raina – his glorious chess jester days

GNS News Agency, March 31

There came a point in Samay Raina's life when one of his primary talents turned latent. And, unfortunately, it is this switch that has shaped the public perception about him. A moment of infamy has airbrushed the past of a stand-up comic well-known for his irreverent and dark humour but not for his contribution to Indian chess. If it was Queen's Gambit on Netflix that saw millions of chess boards flying off the shelves around the world, in India it was a Clown's Opening that turned many bored souls during pandemic into online chess-addicts. Viswanathan Anand is fond of him, Magnus Carlsen has his number saved and he is credited with sparking businessman Anand Mahindra's interest in starting chess's IPL. Scan the internet and you will have testimonials of a generation of amateurs and pros acknowledging Samay's role in making them realise that chess can be fun.

There is more to Samay than the funny man in that viral 'India has got Latent' video seen in the company of those who, it is said, hurt the feelings of many by their attempt at comedy. He is a known prankster and a bonafide fukra. He is also a self-styled curator of bakwaas – these days the in-vogue trash-talking genre goes by a name that was once considered offensive. Samay is the true native of a world ruled by Trump and Musk - no time for niceties or decency. Today, Samay isn't that uber-confident young guy. Couple of days back, called by cops for questioning, he wasn't his usual self - that unapologetic disruptor of the past. "I will be careful next time ... my mental state is not well. My Canada tour also did not go well. I am sorry for what I said, I know what I said was wrong," he said while promising full cooperation with the Maharashtra Police probe team. How times change. Back in the day, it was this disdain for authorities and scorn for socially-accepted etiquettes and behavior that made Samay the game-changing chess streamer. Here's how the Pied Piper with the red round joker nose waylaid India into the complicated world of black and white squares. Before the pandemic, Samay was a struggler on the 'open mic' circuit, who had gained some popularity after Comicstaan, a TV contest that mostly the young tuned to. He was also a regular chicken diner on PUBG games that he live streamed. Samay, in a nutshell, was good at the cool things that mattered to the impressionable teens and those in their 20s. He was on the timeline of the demographic that every advertiser was desperate to woo. Chess got an ideal ambassador and promoter for free, and that too

Samay had learnt chess from his grandfather and played a bit during his primary school days. After a break, it was in college he dived deeper into chess. On the advice of a senior comic, he started streaming chess games. This would prove to be a turning point. Not many gagsters, or their audience, were into chess. So Samay had got his niche. His YouTube channel has his first chess video, where he can be heard saying that he has a grand total of just 40 concurrent viewers. Not too worried, he ploughed on. He



would soon invite fellow comedians, those he knew from his Comicstaan show, to play with him. Never ever, chess was used as a comedy prop and the pieces would be butt of their jokes. As a collateral the game would get new players and audience.

Another big stroke of luck was his collaboration with chessbase.com. The founder of the immensely popular chess website's Sagar Shah saw a potential in the tie-up with the man who cracked jokes between moves. Samay and Shah would think of the chess league and someone would tag Mahindra and Mahindra chief Anand Mahindra to the idea. In days to come the Mahindra-backed league would kick-off. "You started it all," Mahendra can be heard telling Samay when the two would meet at the grand event. As Samay's chess feed continued to get shared, subscribed and liked, the world took notice of him. FIDE director general, GMs, Vishy Anand, actor Amir Khan, singer Abhijit too would share youtube screens with him. In Bangalore, an amateur tournament, inspired by Samay, would come up. Here winning was not of utmost importance, entertainment would be the priority. Samay, in one of his interviews, said that he didn't start chess streaming to be an influential chess figure, his idea just grew organically. But once it did, he started dreaming big. He and a few comics had a dream guest list and on top of it was Carlsen. They would form a whatsapp group called 'Road to Magnus'. Eventually, they would get chess GOAT. Samay's outgoing and effervescent personality has a way of easing guests. But he wasn't like that always. As a Kashmiri Pandit, he has often expressed his angst of moving out of Srinagar and being bullied by kids in Hyderabad as he stood out because he was very fair. This would draw him towards Eminem. He bonded with his pain of being white and getting isolated. Intriguingly, Samay is alone again. There is not much support for him from the comics. But then it is a world where absolutely everything is a joke. They do talk about him but it is mostly to generate laughs. From being a content-creator, Samay is now the 'content'. That's how comics react, it is how their DNA is programmed. Maybe, even Samay would have done the same. Chess, meanwhile, is more forgiving to minor slip-ups, comebacks are part of every game. And even if one gets checkmated, there is also the option of rearranging the pieces and starting again.

'We are f***ing Chennai!': When R Ashwin revealed George Bailey as creator of unique CSK team song



GNS News Agency, March 31

Former India off-spinner R Ashwin is relishing his time back at home with a warm return to the Chennai Super Kings during the IPL 2025 season. In many ways, the Tamil Nadu tweaker has CSK to thank for unearthing and offering him a platform to take his cricketing exploits to the next level. Within a year of making his IPL debut in 2009



under MS Dhoni, Ashwin was out in the India blues representing the country.Returning to the franchise at Rs 9.75 crore signing at the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah last year, Ashwin said the changes within the CSK set-up are negligible when compared to other sides.Reflecting on his switch from the Rajasthan

Royals after a three-year

stint and the CSK reunion on

his YouTube channel,



Ashwin said: "I always tell that 'change is the only constant'. In several places and teams, I have seen a lot of changes over the years. But when it comes to CSK, nothing has changed. Starting with the backroom staff, the same composure, the team song, etc.," Ashwin said before delving deeper into the CSK team song's origin."In fact in the team song, I forgot the first few lines this time

(chuckles). I tried singing it

slow and caught up with the lyrics gradually again," remarked Ashwin before putting a marker on the creator of the song."It is a historic fact that not a lot of people know, but the team song was written by George Bailey. He composed the song and we call him an OG of CSK," Ashwin said in an interaction with analyst Prasanna Lara (aka Pdogg) on YouTube.In an old clip that has recently gone viral on social media after Ashwin's revelation, the entire CSK contingent, led by Dhoni himself, can be seen singing the team song in high spirits in the dressing room. The video also teases a glimpse of Bailey's lyrics, coated with a few expletives, on a banner pinned on the glass of the dressing room.Bailey, the current chairman of selectors of the Australia men's team, represented CSK for two seasons in 2009 and 2010, playing four matches. His CSK career short-lived, Bailey returned to the IPL in 2014 with a switch in allegiance to the Kings XI

Unsold in auction, how a phone call from Zaheer Khan paved the way for Shardul Thakur's return to IPL



GNS News Agency, March 31

On Thursday, the Mumbai all-rounder was rewarded with the purple cap after he became the Indian Premier League's leading wicket-taker this season. Not too long ago, however, Thakur — in a quiet moment of introspection after he went unsold in the mega auction — wondered, "Am I that bad?"In the weeks leading up to the auction, the Mumbai all-rounder requested a few franchise owners to consider him once. After all, he had played 95 matches for five franchises. He even texted an Indian teammate. At 33, Thakur was pushing hard for an India comeback, after he was snubbed for the Australia tour as the selectors chose Nitish Reddy ahead of him. IPL, he thought, would be a springboard to return to the national team. A day before the auction last November, where 366 Indian players had registered, Thakur got a 'positive' response from some of the franchise officials. They promised him he was on their 'wish list'. But soon, there would be a reality check — none of the 10 franchises picked him in the two days of the auctions. Thakur was disheartened but true to his nature, he didn't dwell for too long. He looked at other opportunities - the English county team Essex offered him a contract.

While signing for them, he inserted a clause that if an IPL team came calling, he'd choose that over county cricket.

Deep down, he knew that the IPL doors weren't com-

pletely shut on him. "Fast bowlers tend to get injured. Who knows, I will be playing for any other franchise! One or the other team will take me, else I will fly to England and play county cricket," he had told The Indian Express back then. His belief came true. Mohsin Khan tore his ACL while playing in the Vijay Hazare Trophy last December and Lucknow Super Giants drafted him as an injury replacement. Thakur is currently the leading wicket-taker this season, with six scalps in two games at 8.83.It's a remarkable turnaround. Zaheer, LSG's mentor, gave Thakur a headsup for a possible move during the Ranji Trophy knockouts. "I had signed up for County Cricket if I wasn't picked for the IPL. But while playing Ranji knockouts, I got a call from Zaheer that they are looking at me as a potential replacement, so don't switch yourself off. If we get you in as a replacement, we'll need you to start. That was the day I got back in the IPL zone," Thakur said after his four-wicket haul against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday.

Before he signed for them, Thakur had to appear for bowling trials. He was flown down to Lucknow to join the team but it was subject to a fitness clearance from the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. During this period, Thakur got a call from another franchise, asking him to join them for a much bigger salary. The offer was too tempting to refuse. But Thakur, after consulting his friends, believed it would be 'unethical' to leave LSG, who approached him first; especially when no one wanted him. He is believed to have told a close friend, "Money is important but not at the cost of ethics." LSG signed Thakur from the Registered Available Player Pool at his reserve price of INR 2 crore. "It was a bad day when I wasn't picked in the auction," Thakur said. "Ups and downs keep happening in cricket."

Who is Muhammad Abbas, Lahore-born all-rounder who smashed fastest ODI fifty on debut for New Zealand vs Pakistan

GNS News Agency, March 31

Lahore-born all-rounder Muhammad Arslan Abbas relished a smashing international debut at McLean Park in Napier on Saturday, albeit against the country of his birth, Pakistan, in the Black Caps outfit for New Zealand.Batting at six on the back of a century from Mark Chapman and 76 from Daryl Mitchell, the 21-year-old waltzed into the record books on his ODI debut, blazing a half-century in only 24 balls against Pakistan. The effort was recognised as the quickest half-century on ODI debut by a man, erasing the previous mark by India all-rounder Krunal Pandya who struck a 26-ball half-century on debut against England five years ago.

Born in November 2003, the left-arm seam bowler's father Azhar Abbas was also a First-Class cricketer in Pakistan. Azhar turned up for sides like Peshawar and the Pakistan Railways before moving to New Zealand in mid-2000s and representing Wellington and Auckland in the final stages of his career. Azhar is currently the assistant coach of the Wellington Firebirds. With a bevy of New



Zealand's all-rounders unavailable due to their IPL commitments, young Muhammad got his maiden call-up to the ODI side before slamming three fours and as many sixes on his debut. In 21 First-Class matches representing Wellington since his debut in 2023, Muhammad has scored over 1300 runs with a best of 130 besides picking up 12 wickets.

'Rated 8 out of 10 by his son': Nervous Novak Djokovic shares experience of 'King' Leo Messi meeting at Miami Open

GNS News Agency, March 31

Even as Novak Djokovic dominated the proceedings against Grigor Dimitrov during a 69-minute victory to reach the Inter Miami Open final on Friday, the 24-time Grand Slam winner experienced some jitters on court in the presence of another legendary sports figure in Lionel Messi. The Argentine football superstar was in attendance during Djokovic's 6-2, 6-3 win that put the Serb within touching distance of a staggering 100th career title. Djokovic later hailed Messi and shared the experience of catching up with the football icon's family. "It's a great honour to have King Leo in the stands. I think it's the first time I've played in front of Messi, and honestly, I was a little nervous," said Djokovic."I am very grateful for his attendance with his family. I have always been a fan of him, as most of the world has, throughout his career."Djokovic was also asked about Messi in his press conference. "I've watched him play a few times. I think the finals of World Cup, I watched when he won with Argentina. I think I watched him last year once. I think it was with L.A. with Inter Miami. "Obviously thrilled to have his whole family. I did see him after the match. Came by the locker room. So we spent some time talking and exchanging gifts. "It's huge honour. I mean, he's such a great athlete, not just a football player. His impact on the world of sport in the last 20 years has been immense. To have him watch me live obviously brings me great, great joy and excitement, and also a bit of pressure, to be honest. Djokovic



also cheekily opened up on being rated by one of Messi's sons. "I was rated by one of his sons today as 8 out of 10, which is pretty good. He with a serious face told me I have too make 10 out of 10 next match. So I have quite a bit of pressure from Messi's son there. Yeah, we joked around. It was nice to meet with his whole family. It was very touching moment for me because it's one thing that he comes, but then bringing his whole family, his kids, his wife. "As a young father myself, I know what that means. It's different when you bring the whole family. I was very touched by that and his willingness to spend some time after. I value that time with him"It's a wonderful moment for me and for this tournament and tennis in general for him to be here."

RCB chokes CSK in Chennai, ends 17-year wait for victory in Chepauk

Chennai: Skipper Rajat Patidar's fortuitous fifty received excellent support from an unerring set of bowlers as Royal Challengers Bengaluru snapped a 17-year winless streak at Chepauk with a huge 50-run win over Chennai Super Kings here on Friday. Having fought their way to a competitive 196/7, RCB applied the perfect squeeze on CSK with early strikes and the five-time winners crumbled without any resistance, making 146/8.CSK's defeat to RCB in the "Southern Derby" in their own "Anbuden" (Den of Love) was their first since the inaugural edition of the IPL in 2008. The value of the victory could have gauged from the wide smile on the face of old warhorse Virat Kohli, the only one man in this RCB line-up who was part of that distant 2008 victory.RCB's win came courtesy a heady mix of orthodox game of giving it all with the bat and stifling the opposition with regular wickets. But the Royal Challengers also had to thank CSK's shocking lack of gumption as the home side never landed a punch in reply.CSK never recovered from a poor start which saw them losing skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad (0) among three wickets inside the first two overs.

The slide began in the second over when Rahul Tripathi (5) lobbed an easy catch to short midwicket off Josh Hazlewood (3/21) while attempting a pull. Hazlewood dealt a body blow to CSK on the final ball when he had in-form Gaikwad caught at deep square leg for a four-ball duck, off a top edge which flew high in the air.CSK slipped to 8/3 soon when Deepak Hooda edged one behind off Bhuvneshwar Kumar while looking to guide the ball to third man, which left the five-time champions in deep trouble. Rachin Ravindra (41, 31 balls) and Sam Curran (8) did well to arrest the slump but in bargain they could not whittle down the asking rate, which swelled to 13 runs an over. In the ninth over, Curran went after Liam Livingstone (4-0-28-2) but was caught at long on by Krunal Pandya and it was evident at this point that CSK were staring at a heavy loss. The regular fall of wickets never really allowed Ravindra to take the aggressive route, and his resistance ended in the 13th over when he chopped Yash Dayal onto his stumps (2/18). Dayal reaped further benefits of the mounting pressure when he had Shivam Dube (19) playing one onto the stumps.CSK sent in R Ashwin here.

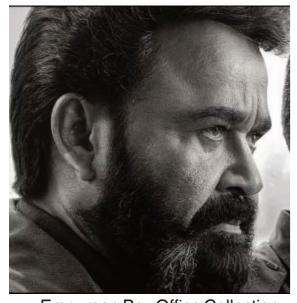
The Residence review: Netflix's munchable murder mystery offers much-needed respite after the absolute perfection of Adolescence



Embracing the immaturity of a sitcom and the put-on sophistication of prestige TV, Netflix's The Residence nestles into a comfy stylistic nook that makes more than eight hours of (surprisingly dense) storytelling go by in a flash. The murder mystery show is produced by the prolific Shonda Rhimes but spearheaded by writer Paul William Davies, who injects it with such an infectious sense of fun that you can't help but play along. At least until the featurelength finale, which strains to deliver the sort of satisfying climax that you'd expect from a show that name-checks The Murder of the Orient Express and Knives Out with such affection. The genre's ongoing resurgence didn't, as many have decided, begin with Rian Johnson's hit. The movie did admittedly well, leaving Netflix with no option but to hurl a reported \$100 million at Daniel Craig to lure him back as the smooth-talking detective Benoit Blanc. But a couple of years before Knives Out, however, director Kenneth Branagh reintroduced Agatha Christie's enduring detective Hercule Poirot to audiences with his largely reverential The Murder of the Orient Express. Believe it or not, the movie was a bigger hit than Knives Out. Branagh made the correct decision to not tinker with the book's now-legendary climax, having understood that without it, it's no different from the scores of other murder mysteries that Christie would churn out on a monthly basis.

The Residence wants to march alongside these greats. But a part of it also wants to throw a banana peel in their path. If nothing else, it serves as a mostly successful introduction for Cordelia Cupp, a detective who genuinely earns

Mohanlal-Prithviraj deliver fastest Malayalam film to enter Rs 100 crore club; creates overseas records



Empuraan Box Office Collection Day 2: Mohanlal's film faced an almost 44% fall and made Rs 11.75 crore on Friday with the Malayalam version contributing Rs 10.75 crore

Empuraan Box Office Collection Day 2: Despite the controversies surrounding the content of Mohanlal's latest, L2: Empuraan, the sequel to the celebrated 2019 blockbuster, Lucifer, it opened to strong numbers on Thursday. The movie built upon this momentum on its second day of release. On Friday, Aashirvad Cinemas, the makers of Empuraan, shared that the film has entered the Rs 100 crore club.In a post, the makers wrote, "The Cicada himself. Empuraan surpasses 100 crore at the box office worldwide in less than 48 hours, setting new benchmarks in cinematic history. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for being part of this extraordinary success! Your love and support made this possible." This achievement has made it the fastest Malayalam movie to enter the club, which has entrants like Manjummel Boys, Lucifer, Premalu, Puli Murugan, Aadujeevitham, and 2018.

Interestingly, Empuraan had the biggest opening in Malayalam cinema history, earning Rs 22 crore nett in India on day one. The bulk of the money came from the Malayalam version. On Day 2, the film faced an almost 44% fall and made Rs 11.75 crore. Just like Day 1, it was Malayalam version of Empuraan that contributed the most with Rs 10.75 crore, with the Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi versions making the remaining Rs 1 crore. With Empuraan making Rs 19 crore on Day 1 with its Malayalam version, the film became the highest-grossing Malayalam film of 2025 in Kerala, beating Rekhachitram, the second-best opener with Rs 1.9 crore. It is also just a few lakhs shy of becoming the highest-grossing Malayalam film of 2025, and pushing Officer on Duty to the second place.

Just like how Lucifer opened up newer markets for Malayalam cinema, Empuraan also created multiple records due to its humongous opening overseas. The film created new records in countries like UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA. It was a solid response to the film in the overseas markets as the Malayalam film made more money in the global box office when compared to the domestic market. Nevertheless, Empuraan created a record in the domestic market too, delivering the biggest-ever opening in Kerala. The record was previously held by Vijay's Leo. Apart from Mohanlal, Prithviraj's third directorial Empuraan stars Tovino Thomas, Manju Warrier, Nyla Usha, Baiju, Abhimanyu Singh, and Nikhat Khan.

a spot alongside Poirot and Blanc. Played by Uzo Aduba, Cordelia is summoned to the White House during a hugely important State Dinner with Australian dignitaries. She is escorted through the maze-like interiors of the historic mansion, and taken to an empty upstairs bedroom where she sees the dead body of a middle-aged man lying on the carpeted floor. The deceased is AB Wynter, the icy 'Chief Usher' of the White House, a man who basically functions like a combination of Alfred from the Batman comics to Nestor from the Tintin books. As it turns out, this time, there is no way that the proverbial butler could've done it.

But the president's cronies would like nothing more than for his death to be ruled a suicide and for this mess to be swept under the rug immediately. US-Australia relations, they tell Cordelia, are at an all-time low, and even the slightest whiff of a scandal — forget one this big — would surely derail discussions. And, to the layman's eye, AB's death certainly looks like a suicide. He was, after all, found with a note clutched in his hand. But Cordelia isn't having any of it. With a roll of the eye, she instructs the squadron of sycophantic men around her to keep their theories to themselves and let her do her job.

Over the course of eight episodes, not only do we learn about Cordelia's many amusing eccentricities - for instance, she greatly enjoys birding, an addictive and honourbound activity that is often referenced during her investigation — but we also meet each of the suspects, turn by turn. As with any murder mystery worth its salt, they all had reasons to kill AB. Only hours ago, he'd cancelled his overdue retirement, effectively snatching the position away from an already appointed successor. AB had also gotten into an argument with the White House's head chef, who, possessed by the spirit of Anthony Bourdain, had threatened to kill him for interfering with her work. AB was frustrated by the obvious alcoholism of a sassy staff member, the overly intrusive ideas of a cultural liaison, and the potentially problematic behaviour of the president's wayward brother. Cordelia essentially pieces together the mystery in real time — the story unfolds across one night — but the structure is so clever that you might momentarily forget how algorithmic it is. They say that Netflix encourages writers to follow a few basic SOPs when creating shows that can ultimately generate the desired results. In the case of the streaming industry, nothing is more important than engagement and audience stickiness. Not only do streamers want you to watch more than one episode of a given show, they want you to stick around on the platform even if it isn't your cup of tea. To achieve these goals, they insist on certain plot beats, like murders in the first episode. And to ensure that distracted audiences don't switch off, they supposedly mandate that certain characters verbally recap the plot at regular intervals. The Residence finds neat ways to get around these hurdles; by framing the story through a Congressional hearing, it gives Davies plenty of opportunity to have characters look back on the events of that fateful night. "So, what you're saying is..." a Senator will ask the many men and women who are summoned for questioning months after the murder, and they will provide a convenient recap of events. The screenplay, on the other hand, seems to have been designed with impatient teenagers in mind. This doesn't always have to be a bad thing. The Residence is edited like an Edgar Wright movie, replete with humorous cutaways and dry jokes aimed at everything from AB's ancient ways to the disrupters that he rubbed the wrong

Is the show trying to make sneaky statements about the right and the left; or the generational divide; or even the perennial battle between modernity and tradition? Who knows. If it is, it's all very superficial. But even more than the central mystery — which is very engaging, mind you it's the show's handling of the upstairs-downstairs drama that is truly subversive. Davies might have been bound by the demands of streamers and the restrictions of the genre, but that doesn't stop him from turning The Residence into a show about class. "It's us versus them," one character declares early on, highlighting the fault-lines that have appeared between the privileged dignitaries and the blue-collar staff. Beneath the ostentatious art direction, the flashy editing, and Aduba's fabulous central performance, The Residence is a show about rather basic people, engaged in rather basic conflicts. They want job satisfaction; they want to find love, they want to be seen and heard. Some of them, like the executive chef, doesn't want the pastry guy encroaching on her turf. Others, like the president's brother, is clearly frustrated after having spent a lifetime in his shadow. Even though The Residence's denouement might not stack up to those of The Murder on the Orient Express or Knives Out, the show compensates by succeeding as a drama. Oldfashioned themes such as jealousy, betrayal, and ambition offer a nice contrast to the otherwise contemporary narrative style. It's as if the show is commenting on itself. And in this era of zero self-awareness, this goes a long way.

Randeep Hooda says 'no space for experimentation, only bhedh chaal culture' in Bollywood: 'Ek Stree chalgayi toh sab horror comedy hi banaayenge ab'

Bollywood is currently experiencing a dry spell, with several re-released films drawing more footfalls in theatres than new releases. At the sixth edition of The Indian Express' series Expresso in New Delhi, actor Randeep Hooda and filmmaker Hansal Mehta discussed the ongoing crisis in Hindi cinema. When asked about why re-releases are working better at the box office. Hansal instantly replied. "This is a social media trend. One or two re-released films have done well. It doesn't mean that everything has done well."Randeep chimed in and said that everyone is functioning as per trends. "I would bring it down to bhedh chaal. If one thing works, then similar things start getting made. Sabko vahi banaana hai. Abhi sabko Stree ke baad horror comedy banaana hai. I, as an actor, don't think that should be a parameter. So, there is a crisis going on because of many things."Randeep also pointed out that films have become formulaic. He said, "There's a lot of film execution happening now, not filmmaking. We have isolated ourselves in the ivory tower a little. There's little room for experimentation."However, the actor-filmmaker finds hope in the streaming medium, though he acknowledges that it is gradually succumbing to commercial pressures. "Experimentation is only possible on OTT platforms now. Although, I think that they are also looking for that kind of cinema because they want more audience and subscriptions. It's a business-driven thing," he said. Hooda continued, "There needs to be somebody who puts down their foot, hopefully that's me because I want to do both of them. I am trying to do something experimental enough and choosing a subject which connects with a larger amount of people."During the session, Randeep Hooda also praised South Indian filmmakers for making movies with 'a bit more rootedness and actual characterisation.'



Randeep said, "Their working is very different. I really admire what they do. It is also because they are still trying to make movies about their own culture. Their sensibility is more basic human emotions, which is appealing to a larger audience. If you look at the big movies that are doing well, a lot of them have the things of commercial movies, like Bachchan sahab's 'Main aaj bhi pheke hue paise nahi uthaata hu', so there's 'Pushpa, jhukta nahi hai.' So, that kind of thing is coming back again."He added, "They are just making our films, but with a bit more rootedness and actual characterisation. Pushpa doesn't have six-pack abs, he has a beard and crooked shoulder. Whereas, the so-called elite filmmakers and actors are busy making abs. They are not going into characterisations and finding the character. They are just not making character-driven films. But, people are not going to stop watching movies or OTT, it is going to be a constant thing. We are just in a bit of a shuffle."On the work front, Randeep Hooda will next star in Jaat, alongside Sunny Deol. He also has Hollywood film Matchbox

'Saif Ali Khan ate your dog': Actor Akashdeep Sabir recalls getting panicked call after his dog was mauled to death by Amrita Singh's pet



Actor Amrita Singh's dog killed Sheeba Aggarwal's dog while the former was out shooting.

Actor Sheeba Aggarwal, who was last seen alongside Sonu Sood and Jacquline Fernandez in the actionthriller Fateh, opened up about her experiences in the industry in a new interview. She said that she was neighbours with Amrita Singh when she was younger, and that Amrita's dog killed her Pomeranian. Sheeba

admitted that she was scarred by the event. The Jigra actor shared many other anecdotes, name-dropping colleagues such as Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Sunil Dutt and Shah Rukh Khan. In an interview with Lehren Retro, Sheeba and her actor-husband Akashdeep Sabir shed light on their time in Bollywood, and how they once lived right beside the then-married Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh. "We used to live in the same society, and she (Amrita) had a German Shepherd, and he was not trained and wasn't supposed to be an unleashed dog. I am an animal lover, and I understand how different kinds of pets should be handled," added the actor. Meanwhile, Akashdeep defended Saif and Amrita and remarked that "to give the couple their due, they were not at home and were shooting somewhere; the house help left the door open, and my two Pomeranians were out for a walk, and the German Shepherd tore them apart. "My watchman called me and told me that I needed to get back as soon as possible. When I asked what the matter was, he just said, 'Saif aapka kutta khaa gaya' (Saif ate your dog), and I just couldn't understand what he was talking about," Akashdeep shared, as he and Sheeba burst out laughing. Sheeba said that the tragedy had a grave impact on her. "I was horrified and upset, and I went through a very bad phase," she said. Sheeba Aggarwal made her Bollywood debut in the film Yeh Aag Kab Bhujegi, alongside Sunil Dutt, in 1991. Since then she has worked in many prominent films such as Koi Mil Gaya (2003) and Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (2023).

Eloise and Penelope back as partners in crime, meet Sophie's 'unimpressed' stepsisters



The fourth season of Netflix's Bridgerton is around the corner, and what better way to kick promotions off than with two besties back in action? After their rocky fallout in Season 3, Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan) and Eloise Bridgerton (Claudia Jessie) seem to be back on track in new photos shared by Entertainment Weekly. Fans will remember that their friendship took a hit when Eloise found out that Penelope was secretly Lady Whistledown, but with Colin (Luke Newton) and Pen's love story sealing the season with a happy ending, it looks like tensions have finally cooled down between them.A new photo showed them smiling alongside each other, days after Bridgerton showrunner Jess Brownell teased that Peneloise fans are in for a treat next season. "They're more bonded than ever!" she shared with EW. "Their trials and tribulations last season have added new depth to their friendship, and we're excited for viewers to see how their relationship looks now that they've each grown up a little." Season 3 ended with Penelope choosing to reveal her secret identity and Eloise deciding to travel to Scotland with Francesca (Hannah Dodd). In the newly released photo, Penelope and Eloise are seen strolling down the street, deep in conversation, no doubt ready to spill some major tea, with those expressions. Another image introduces Sophie Baek's (Yerin Ha) stepsisters, Rosamund (Michelle Mao) and Posy (Isabella Wei). The unimpressed Li sisters pay a visit to Eloise and Hyacinth Bridgerton (Florence Hunt). With plenty to talk about, the upcoming season will largely focus on the Bridgerton family's free-spirited second son, Benedict, and his love story with Sophie Baek. According to Netflix's Tudum, the Li sisters, raised by their mother, Araminta Gun (Katie Leung), have been groomed for high society. "While Rosamund has become her mother's minime — a marriage mart pro chess player — Posy is dreamy and often unserious, much to her mother's disapproval," Brownell said. While the Bridgertons don't seem to be on their list initially, Benedict Bridgerton (Luke Thompson) certainly catches their attention. This season, the focus shifts to Benedict. After managing to dodge marriage pressures so far, his eyes meet Sophie Baek at a masquerade ball. Sophie, who disguises herself in silver (Lady in Silver), immediately captures Benedict's attention. But beneath the glitz, she's a young woman with a complicated past and secrets of her own. Ha's character has been described as a fresh take on Cinderella; Sophie isn't a helpless damsel. Brownell teased that Sophie will "throw Benedict for a loop," forcing him to step outside his

Kim Soo Hyun's agency breaks silence on Sulli's explicit scene allegations amid Kim Sae Ron row

Kim Soo Hyun's agency, Gold Medalist, has finally acknowledged the controversy surrounding Sulli, the popular K-pop idol who ended her life in 2019 after suffering years of criticism, cyberbullying, and mental abuse. As the actor's dating scandal gained traction, Sulli's brother, Choi Da Hee, was dropping cryptic posts on social media. Initially, these seemed directed at the Queen of Tears star, but he later dismissed the speculation as mere rumours. However, on Friday, he directly demanded clarification regarding Sulli's explicit scenes in the 2017 film Real, specifically from costar and lead actor Kim Soo Hyun, as well as Lee Sa Rang (real name: Lee Ro Be), who not only directed the film but also co-founded Kim Soo Hyun's agency, Gold Medalist. Gold Medalist, who has yet to clarify the leaked KakaoTalk messages between Kim Soo Hyun and Kim Sae Ron, where his "sexually suggestive" texts to the then-minor actor is under scrutiny, has now issued a new statement. The agency said they are "currently verifying the situation," addressing the fresh allegations involving the late actor Sulli, specifically the claims that Kim Soo Hyun's team pressured her into doing "explicit scenes." On March 28, Sulli's brother released an official statement through Sports Kyunghyang, demanding clarification from the makers of the 2017 film Real on three key issues. He began by expressing his grief over Kim Sae Ron's passing and mentioned how his own family has been suffering their loss for over six years. For that reason, he said, they couldn't turn a blind eye to the Bloodhounds star's death. Sulli and Kim Soo Hyun co-starred in Real in 2017, at a time when the K-pop idol was stepping into acting. Her controversial scenes in the film sparked massive backlash, and while she faced the heat from fans, Soo Hyun and the production house remained silent. After her tragic passing in 2019, her brother revealed that during the funeral, they heard troubling claims, "specifically about the bedroom scene." "Because this matter was not widely known at the time, we also couldn't verify the exact facts, but we learned that a body double did exist and was present on set, despite claims that the body double was ill and couldn't attend," he wrote. He further wrote that since the person involved is no longer here, Kim Soo Hyun and his brother should step forward and answer these questions:Claim 1: Some staff members at the funeral claimed that the controversial scene in Real was not detailed in the script. "We would like to hear Kim Soo Hyun's position on this," he stated. Claim 2: According to Choi Da Hee, a body double was present on set for the scene in question.

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